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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you think a mass protest would help expedite solutions to the current power crisis on the island?

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GMA Meeting

Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo is participating this week in meetings with Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

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Lightning Fires

An electrical storm unleashes 8,000 lightning strikes that set more than 800 wildfires across California.

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BET Awards

T-Pain transformed the BET Awards into a circus Tuesday with a multi-artist medley.

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"Our economy would be cut in half by federalization. There's no way around it. …Because of provisions of the bill, it is and will be injurious to the Commonwealth."

—Richard A. Pierce, the governor's special assistant for trade relations and economic affairs

DRAFT REPORT ON FEDERALIZATION'S IMPACT

Major economic disruption seen

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Federal authority over the Commonwealth's immigration laws will prove a "major economic disruption" as foreign workers are forced to leave and businesses are driven to compete for available labor, according to excerpts of a pending economic report and a key adviser to Gov. Benigno Fitial.

See MAJOR on Page 4

CUC said to owe PMIC $1.6 million

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is in arrears and reportedly owes $1.6 million to the private company that operates Power Plant 4 in Puerto Rico, Saipan.

Pacific Marine and Industrial Corp. general manager Narciso Paradela said yesterday the utility agency has yet to pay PMIC $1,627,515.15 for four and a half months, including the June 1-15,

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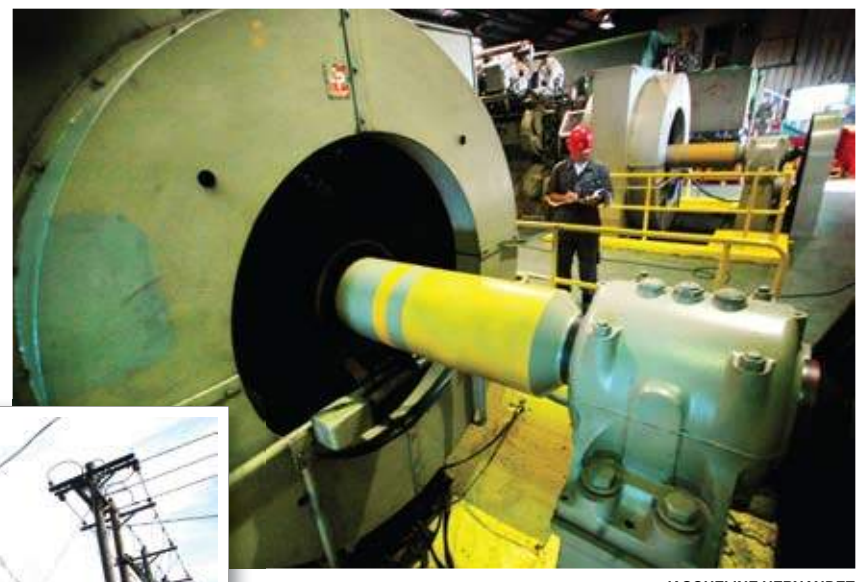

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

An employee makes a routine inspection on one of the power engines inside the privately operated Power Plant 4 in Puerto Rico yesterday afternoon.

RELATED NEWS

CUC, PUC officials summoned to Senate. PAGE 7

Telesource blasts CUC over emergency power contract

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

The company tasked with operating Tinian's power plant is railing against a deal the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has struck to gain emergency power, calling for reforms within the agency.

The CUC signed a $6 million deal with Aggreko International Monday to lease emergency power generators. Yet Telesource's management in a statement issued

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Senators to review worker insurance troubles

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

In a private conference with local labor activists Tuesday, Senate President Pete Reyes (I-Saipan) and Sen. Maria Pangelinan (D-Saipan) vowed to launch a government review examining the many cases of foreign workers owed money by insurance companies that cannot pay

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Jim Bell to swim around island of Saipan. PAGE 2
Fitial leaves for governors' association meeting. PAGE 3

Local

Jim Bell to swim around island of Saipan

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Emboldened by his successful swim across the Tinian channel two weeks ago, 70-year-old Jim Bell is back on Saipan, this time to swim around the island.

Bell said he will swim the circumference of Saipan in preparation for his swim in the treacherous waters of the Torres Straits.

Bell

Although he has not decided on a date yet, Bell plans to start and end the Saipan swim at Sugar Dock, swimming around the island in a clockwise fashion.

"I will start out with fairly short distances and then go to greater distances to increase my endurance and sun exposure time. I will probably swim outside the reef, coming into channels and bays and swimming around Managaha Island, but will not swim the shoreline inside the lagoon," he outlined his plan.

He said he might also do the shoreline inside the lagoon after he completes the swim around the island.

On June 9, 2008, Bell celebrated his 70th birthday swimming the five-mile channel between Saipan and Tinian. Bell made the crossing alone, with little knowledge about the current and with now escort monitoring his progress.

He left Tinian at 6am and landed on the beach of Coral Ocean Point Resort in Koblerville at 10:30am, completing the swim in four and a half hours. He had expected the crossing to take eight hours.

It was a feat he last achieved in July 1981, when he marked his retirement from the U.S. Navy by swimming alone from Saipan to Tinian. That previous effort took 12 hours.

His next goal is to cross the Torres Strait from Papua New Guinea to the Australian mainland.

Tinian landowner sues to collect $.4M rental

A Tinian landowner has sued an investor over alleged nonpayment of rental in the amount of $490,447.

Jose P. San Nicolas asked the Superior Court to order Jung Eun Teack to pay him back rent plus damages, court costs and attorney's fees.

San Nicolas, through counsel Joey P. San Nicolas, asked the court to forfeit the lease agreement and restored his rights to the property.

Atty. San Nicolas stated in the complaint that on Sept. 2, 1999, the parties entered into a written lease agreement concerning plaintiff's 997 square meters of land in San Jose, Tinian.

Atty. San Nicolas said Teack has failed to pay the rental amount due since February 2005.

He said despite plaintiff's demands for payment, the defendant "has failed, refused, and still fails and refuses, to perform his obligations under the lease agreement." ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

'CNMI agencies should understand US military role in times of disaster'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

CNMI agencies should understand the military's role during a disaster event, according to Joint Task Force Homeland Defense chief of operations Lt. Col. Stanley E. Toy.

Toy said the military obviously has significant capability in resources and that they are trying to ensure everybody understands what the process is for requesting military support.

Toy

"It is very important that agencies clearly understand where the military fits in the grand scheme of things in terms of providing the most appropriate resources based on the requirements needed," Toy told the media yesterday during a break in the ongoing Joint Task Force-Homeland Defense Training at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret in San Antonio.

In the five-day conference that started last Monday, he said they have been discussing "all hazard, no-notice emergency events."

Toy said the emphasis is on emergency communication and planning on how agencies coordinate their response and recovery efforts in the face of crisis events or disaster.

He said participants in the training are inter-agency partners from the Emergency Management Office, Department of Public Safety's police and fire divisions, private sector, airlines, Commonwealth Ports Authority, and military.

"All these folks come together to discuss their roles and responsibilities for a disaster event. So the outcome really is to share information on the plans that are supposed to allow these agencies to synchronize their resources," he said.

In addition, the official said, they want to ensure that everybody knows who everybody is so that they are not meeting for the first time when there is a crisis.

Lastly, Toy pointed out, they

See CNMI on Page 4

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Project: Tinian Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal System
Responsible Agency: U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs
Cooperating Agency: CNMI Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
NEPA Agent: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District

This notice serves to announce the availability of a Final Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). The Final EA evaluates potential environmental consequences of the proposed Tinian Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal System. To obtain a copy of the Final EA please contact Mr. James Hatashima of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District at (808) 438-2264 or James.K.Hatashima@poh01.usace.army.mil.

Fitial attends governors' association meeting

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is traveling to the mainland United States on official business.

The governor left shortly before his taped address aired on a local television show on Tuesday evening. In the broadcast, Fitial announced his administration will sue the U.S. government over the immigration "federalization" law.

Fitial will be out of the Commonwealth for 10 days, he said in his TV address.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said the main item in the governor's itinerary is the annual meeting of the Western Governors' Association in Wyoming. The meeting will be held June 29 to July 1, 2008.

According to the WGA website, governors from Kansas to California, including Alaska, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Marianas, will come together to discuss climate change policy initiatives and adaptive strategies, improving management of their water resources, the future of energy resources, and preserving critical wildlife corridors.

The governor will also attend a meeting of the Pacific Basin Development Council, a regional group that supports cooperation and development among the four U.S. jurisdictions in the Pacific: American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, and the Northern Marianas.

On Tuesday evening, Fitial said he will challenge in federal courts the recently passed law having Washington take control of local immigration. He reported that his special legal counsel, Howard Willens, has drafted a complaint, and a team of U.S.-based attorneys has been hired to review it.

The governor said the complaint will focus on the labor provisions of the legislation which are not part of federal immigration laws. It will also outline the economic damage that the administration says the new law has caused, and is expected to cause, to the Commonwealth.

"[We] believe that the U.S. Congress cannot impose unique federal controls on a single community of U.S. citizen and its workforce as this law does," Fitial said.

He also touted the accomplishments of the law firm he has hired to help the CNMI government's lawyers in preparing the lawsuit. Jenner & Block, a national firm with offices in Chicago, New York and Washington, D.C., "has a distinguished record for its practice before the U.S. Supreme Court and specializes in complex litigation and constitutional law," Fitial said.

The Jenner & Block lawyers working on the federalization lawsuit are David DeBruin, William Hohengarten, and Sharmila Sohoni.

Insular areas want in on American curriculum

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The U.S. House of Representatives has approved a resolution urging educators to include the insular areas when they teach history in American classrooms.

The resolution was adopted by voice vote late Tuesday evening. It is now in the U.S. Senate for its consideration.

U.S. Virgin Islands Delegate Donna Christensen sponsored the resolution, with 46 other House members signing on as cosponsors.

The resolution says that people from Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands "have contributed to many aspects of the history and culture of the United States, including its politics, athletics, and music." Yet, many American students do not know the location or the significance of these places.

"The diversity of the citizens of the United States strengthens the nation, and individuals from the territories of the United States contribute to that diversity. It is important for American students to study the history of these geographic areas as part of United States history," the resolution states.

A press statement from the office of Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo said the Guam delegate spoke on the House floor in favor of the resolution.

"The teaching of United States history is fundamental to the American classroom. Yet, the teaching of history can be elevated today with greater incorporation of facts related to the territories and our fellow Americans who call the territories home," Bordallo was quoted as saying.

"Integration into the modern day curriculum of the accounts of relationships and the circumstances surrounding the entry of each of the territories into the American family is both appropriate and needed if our teaching of American history is to be complete and meaningful," she added.

BATEMAN

DELEGATE
"He will not vote"

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iCONNECT

New book chronicles struggle of Guam's people

HONOLULU, Hawaii—As the United States military prepares for a massive relocation of thousands of U.S Marines and their families to Guam, a new book published by the University of Hawaii Press provides needed insight into the history of the island territory.

We Fought the Navy and Won: Guam's Quest for Democracy, by Doloris Coulter Cogan, is a carefully documented yet impassioned first-person account of Guam's struggle to liberate itself from the absolutist rule of the U.S Navy in the years following World War II.

To mark the publication of her book, the author will be traveling from her home in Elkhart, Indiana, to visit Guam timed before the 64th anniversary celebration of Liberation Day. She will be on island for book signings and interviews, arriving July 16 and departing July 22. She will make a stopover in Honolulu from July 11 to 14 to promote her book there.

In her book, Cogan focuses on the crucial five years after Liberation Day in 1945, when the people in Guam stood up to the Navy in their desire for self-determination. Ruled by Spain for 300 years after being discovered by Magellan in 1521, then administered by an autocratic U.S. Navy for nearly 50 years after the Spanish-American War in 1898, before occupation by the Japanese, the Guamanians were ready in 1945 to throw off the yoke of colonial government.

As Cogan recounts, "Guam's quest for democracy was a battle of words and legislation. Not one bullet was fired. Yet a seesaw battle went on for years, pitting U.S. Navy Secretary James V. Forrestal against former Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes and a Guam Assembly that eventually staged a walkout in 1949 to protest lack of civilian control." This act of defiance drew renewed attention from the national press and prompted congressional hearings that resulted in the Organic Act of Guam signed by President Truman on Aug. 1, 1950.

Cogan chronicles these pivotal years in Guam's history. Fresh out of the graduate school of journalism at Columbia University, she took a job as a writer and editor of the *Guam Echo*, a publication of the newly formed Institute of Ethnic Affairs in Washington, D.C., led by John Collier, who also championed the cause of Guamanian autonomy. Her book is based on information in the 37 issues of the *Guam Echo*, published from February 1945 through May 1950 and sent monthly to a broad national readership. She has since gifted complete copies of those publications to the Micronesian Area Research Center on Guam, the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. to facilitate further research. In the year 2000, she was invited by the governor of Guam to participate in the 50th Anniversary of the Organic Act of Guam. It was after meeting historians there that she discovered she had a book of her own.

Cogan has written this book partly to capture the attention of the sons and daughters and grandchildren of the brave Chamorros of the 1940s. She believes her historical account also has a contemporary message: that democracy cannot be won at the point of a gun or imposed from above but must be achieved through work at the grassroots level by those to be governed; that policy at the top level can be changed; that even the military can be brought around to change by speaking truth to power, and that freedom of the press plays an important part in achieving and sustaining real democracy. ***(PR)***

SENATORS

From Page 1

claims due to financial shortfalls.

Alien workers in the Commonwealth often receive insurance, purchased in the form of surety bonds, from their employers to safeguard them should the businesses where they work fold. The bonds provide money for unpaid wages, often as much as three months' worth, and plane tickets to their country of origin.

Upon losing their jobs, however, many foreign workers find the insurance company that sold the bonds to their former employers lacks the assets to pay claims on the bonds, leaving them to pursue payment in the courts or go unpaid. Lax government regulation, insurance company and government sources say, has allowed these practices to continue unchecked.

Pangelinan in an e-mail said that Irene Tantiado, president of the Coalition of United Workers, a local labor group, will soon provide lawmakers with a list of unpaid workers to aid a review of each worker's case.

Legislation on the issue, a crackdown on insurance companies by the Commerce Department or some form of government outreach to help employees obtain the wages they are owed are some of the options lawmakers might consider, she said.

"The meeting ended with the following understanding: each worker is unique in their case and therefore, a general solution for all would not be possible without reviewing each worker's case history," Pangelinan writes, adding that she, Commerce, and attorneys "are willing to assist, but we need to review each case situation and hopefully that will then lead us to some solution…Each employee has a unique case situation so each one might have different alternative options or solutions."

At the meeting were Tantiado, representatives from the Bangladeshi and Nepalese communities, Senate legal counsel Tony Cabrera, and Deputy Secretary of Commerce Michael Ada. Commerce will address many of the issues raised during the meeting, Pangelinan said.

Before resolving the problems surrounding surety bonds, she added, lawmakers must also answer some key legal questions, such as whether claims can be brought against companies after a surety bond's coverage period has expired.

Tantiado applauded the senators for holding the meeting, which she regarded as a step forward for foreign workers who have long sought unpaid wages.

"There's a lot of hope for the workers now that something is going to be done," she said.

Meanwhile, a new report from Commerce obtained by the *Saipan Tribune* apparently shows that at least a handful of insurers in the Commonwealth may still lack the solvency to pay workers' surety bond claims.

The report shows that four insurance companies, all of which sell surety bonds, have liabilities much greater than their total assets, a factor that insurance company sources say could prevent them from paying worker claims.

How well the report reflects current conditions in the Commonwealth is unclear because it is limited to information from 2006. Reports for later years are unavailable, Commerce says, due to a long backlog of data that its staff has yet to analyze.

Ada declined to discuss the report, saying the governor's office has yet to give Commerce permission to comment on it publicly.

The report also recommends the passage of legislation tightening insurance laws in the Commonwealth.

CNMI

From Page 2

want everybody to understand where the military fits in.

"Because we [military] are not in charge. We are in support of civil authorities when requested and when called upon," he said.

Toy said disasters could be a natural event like a typhoon, or a man-made event such as a bomb blast.

"It could be an airport disaster, plane crash, ship sinking in the harbor," he said. "Those kinds of events require us to act immediately."

Since 2006, the Joint Task Force-Homeland Defense, in coordination with EMO and the Governor's Office, had hosted six to seven such conferences on Saipan.

Toy said this kind training is very important to the CNMI because the islands have limited capabilities and resources.

He said the available resources should be handled efficiently and effectively so that the emergency agencies can sustain for a longer period of time before help is expected from Guam, Hawaii or from somewhere else within the region.

TELESOURCE

From Page 1

Wednesday said the company could have provided 10 megawatts of the power CUC needs for half the cost it is now going to pay Aggreko.

"The legal basis for the contract is suspect to say the least," Telesource writes. "But the costs associated with the contract are exorbitant compared to the alternatives available locally. Why hasn't CUC investigated these alternatives?"

Telesource and CUC are embroiled in an ongoing dispute over the agency's failure to pay the company debts it owes on a series of promissory notes totaling more than $800,000. The company has repeatedly said that without payment, it cannot afford spare parts and lubrication oil for its power station. Furthermore, the company has repeatedly blasted CUC for failing to provide diesel fuel for the station on a timely basis.

Telesource noted these disputes in its criticism of the CUC-Aggreko deal.

"While CUC is deciding to pay double rates for badly needed energy, why don't they pay Telesource for the energy it provides?"

The company further says that negotiations with CUC on the agency's unpaid debts have come to a standstill. Reform of the CUC, it adds, is badly needed.

"Without courage to do the right thing, the required change will never come to the CNMI," the company says. "It is refreshing to know, however, that our people are waking up and the majority of our elected officials will not stand for this type of mismanagement."

CUC officials could not be reached for comment at press time.

CUC

From Page 1

2008 billing.

Paradela told *Saipan Tribune* they are billing CUC bi-monthly on the basis of the kilowatt-hours it exports to the utility agency.

"We are proud to say that we have an almost 100 percent availability," he said.

From time to time, though, they schedule a shutdown of a unit for preventive maintenance. "Except for these maintenance, our units here are continuously running," he stressed.

Paradela cited that during Thursday night's islandwide outage, they were on in-house load and were isolated from the power distribution system.

At that time, he said, they waited for three hours for Power Plant 1 in Lower Base to be ready to receive power so it could run the plant.

Power Plant 4 has reportedly been saving Saipan's electric power distribution in the middle of malfunctions and current repairs on power engines at CUC's main power plants.

CUC executive director Antonio Muna earlier said the PMIC-operated Power Plant 4 is a key component in the power distribution system, delivering over 30 percent of the island's power needs.

"Without Power Plant 4 stepping up to the plate, I think our situation would probably be graver as a result," said Muna, who described Power Plant 4's services as "very reliable."

Paradela said their power plant has a total nameplate capability of 16.6 megawatts and a firm capability of 14.6 MW.

Power Plant 4 has nine power engines. Although Engine Unit No. 1 is still in its foundation, it has already been replaced with Unit No. 10 in December 2005.

Paradela said their contractual obligation to CUC is only 10.1 MW, but at present they are supplying 14.4 to 14.6 MW due to CUC's supply shortage.

CUC's contract with PMIC was renewed in 2006 for another 10 years.

MAJOR

From Page 1

President Bush earlier this year signed legislation federalizing the Commonwealth's immigration rules in a move that many local business leaders say will devastate the economy. In response, Fitial on Tuesday disclosed he might file suit against the federal government in a bid to overturn the new law.

Meanwhile, economists hired by his administration are crafting a report funded with U.S. Department of the Interior money that will illustrate the full scope of federalization's consequences. The report will be finalized in the coming months, according to the governor's chief trade adviser, Richard A. Pierce. The document could help local officials make the case against federalization and guide other efforts to address the issue, he said.

Excerpts of the report, which Fitial referenced when announcing early plans to file the lawsuit, suggest federalization will severely drain the Commonwealth's labor pool.

"[F]ull implementation of federal immigration authority as enacted will injure existing business and future investment through labor access restrictions under a federally administered guest worker program," the report says. "In a small, isolated island economy dependent on an outside labor market, there's essentially no way to eliminate the overwhelming majority of the current 20,000 guest workers in five years and find qualified replacements from within. The outmigration and repatriation of half the employees on-island will effect major economic disruption."

Fitial also said that federalization would result in a 50 percent decline in the CNMI's gross domestic product, or GDP.

In an interview, Pierce echoed many of those statements, adding the pending report could complement a draft Government Accountability Office report Fitial's staff is now reviewing.

"Our economy would be cut in half" by federalization, Pierce said. "There's no way around it. We have an economy dependent on outside labor and because of provisions of the bill that have been passed, it is and will be injurious to the Commonwealth. How much injury there is remains to be seen."

Moreover, he added, the lost workers would leave thousands of jobs unfilled. "We'll have an increased need for labor that essentially doesn't exist here," he said.

And the cap federalization will set on the number of foreign workers allowed to stay in the Commonwealth, Pierce said, will put a significant strain on small businesses, which will have to compete with larger companies for labor.

A preliminary government document outlining the scope of the pending economic report shows that it will cover a host of issues related to federalization's fallout. It will include an analysis of the various factors that could contribute to the Commonwealth's economic decline, a 5- to 10-year forecast of the local economy without federalization, an alternative forecast that accounts for federalization, and recommendations for policy-makers on how to deal with the issue.

Manglona says Miura's argument misses the mark

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorrre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona says Kazuyoshi Miura's argument that his situation presents special circumstances that allow for bail "misses the mark."

Citing a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in a case that, according to Manglona, resembles in some respects to those of Miura's as argued, "it is for the California courts to do justice in this case based upon its substantive law and procedures, not the CNMI courts," she said.

Manglona gave the statements in a written order she issued yesterday, denying Miura's motion for bail modification.

"Interpreting the omission of any provision for bail in the CNMI's extradition statute as an implied acknowledgement of the Court's discretion to allow bail, or to find special circumstances for the exercise of the Court's inherent powers or the application of Commonwealth rules of criminal procedure on the basis of an assessment of the merits of the California charges, would constitute an unjustifiable judicial interference with the 'summary and mandatory executive proceeding' contemplated by the extradition law," she said.

Miura's counsel had moved to modify the bail. The defense counsel's position is that denial of an opportunity for the 60-year-old Miura to obtain bail violates rights provided him under the U.S. and CNMI Constitutions.

In addition to due process rights to liberty, the defense also maintained that Miura is entitled to bail under the "special circumstances" doctrine.

In opposition, the Attorney General's Office argued that the CNMI extradition statute explicitly states that someone who is charged with capital offense is not entitled to bail.

In the hearing of the motion on June 19, Manglona orally denied Miura's bail modification request.

In her written decision yesterday, Manglona said provisions of the CNMI's Criminal Extradition laws permit bail for a person detained on a fugitive warrant—a warrant issued prior to a governor's warrant—unless the person is charged by the requesting state with an offense punishable under the laws of that state by death or life imprisonment.

The statute, the judge pointed out, does not address the subject of bail in connection with the detention of a person arrested pursuant to a Governor's warrant of arrest.

These provisions, Manglona said, exactly mirror the Uniform Criminal Extradition Act. The federal Extradition Act does not mention bail at all, she said.

"This leaves the issue of the availability of bail subject to judicial determination in states that have adopted the Uniform Act. There is no controlling decisional law interpreting the CNMI's extradition statute," the judge said.

Manglona said majority of state courts regard the determination of bail as a matter essentially within the jurisdiction of the demanding state and that the delay caused by any challenge to extradition cannot confer upon the fugitive a right to bail in the asylum state.

In this case, Manglona said, Miura did not qualify for release on bail pursuant to CNMI's Criminal Extradition law because he is charged with murder and conspiracy to commit murder in California, where the penalties for these offenses include death or life imprisonment.

She said even the minority of Uniform Criminal Extradition Act jurisdictions, where courts have allowed bail for individuals held on a governor's warrant of arrest, "the courts generally do not construe the statutes to permit the release on bail of an individual who would not have qualified for release under the provisions applicable to their detention on a fugitive warrant."

The State of California is seeking Miura's extradition on charges of murder and conspiracy to commit murder in connection with the killing of his wife in 1981. Miura has been in jail since he was arrested at the Saipan airport last February.

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DCCA says no discrimination at NAP

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin O. Faisao disputes claims of discrimination regarding the administration of the federal food stamp program.

"We are charged with following the law and all applicable federal regulations in the administration of this program and we take this responsibility very seriously," said Faisao.

Faisao said the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs, which administers the federal program, welcomes all food stamp applicants and will ensure that all applicants meet all of the legal requirements for the program.

Faisao was responding to discrimination claims made by non-resident workers earlier this week. The guest workers claimed that American citizens are being given preferential treatment in the administration of the food stamp program. Faisao disputed the charge and said that DCCA is merely working to protect against fraud and abuse, so that only those eligible to receive benefits are served according to federal law.

"I regret that some nonresident workers feel frustrated by our legal requirements, but we will continue to do our best to serve eligible nonresident workers and their families while still meeting all of our legal requirements," said Faisao. ***(PR)***

Bishop Camacho's birthday fundraiser aims to net $75K

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

Celebrating the life of the community's spiritual leader, Bishop Tomas A. Camacho's 75th Birthday Fundraising Dinner will be held on Sept. 18, 2008 at the Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort.

The event also celebrates the lives and people Bishop Camacho has touched in his 75 years as a son, brother, relative, priest and bishop.

Special guest of honor is Cardinal Gaudencio Rosales of the Archdiocese of Manila. He will be the homilist for Bishop Camacho's birthday Mass on Sept. 18, 2008, 5:30pm at Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Organizers of the fundraising event hopes to raise $75,000 for the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa. Tickets will be on sale for $75 per person.

In keeping with canon law, Bishop Camacho will offer his resignation to Pope Benedict VXI when he turns 75 this September. It is for the pope to decide where he wants Bishop Camacho to continue serving as Bishop of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, or whether he wants another one to serve the diocese.

Bishop Camacho was born in Sept. 18, 1933, to Vidal Palacios Camacho and Maria Aguon Camacho. He attended Fr. Duenas High School Minor Seminary in Guam and graduated in 1953.

He went to Saint Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, California for his Philosophy and Theology courses, graduating in 1961, and was ordained a priest June 14, 1961, at Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral in Guam by the late Bishop Apollinaris Baumgartner.

Bishop Camacho served as Associate Pastor and Associate Pastor Guam and Rota parishes from 1961-1976, then was appointed as a Monsignor (Prelate of Honor) by Pope John Paul in 1974.

He was assigned back to his native Saipan as Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in 1976 and was consecrated as the first Bishop of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa on Jan. 13, 1985

Has translated most of the liturgical books and New Testament Bible into Chamorro. The Bible and the liturgical books are widely used and read in Chamorro liturgies in the CNMI, Guam and elsewhere.

Bishop Camacho just recently battled Stage 1 lung cancer and is currently recuperating.

For any more information about the upcoming fundraiser, contact committee chair Herbert Del Rosario at 234-5498 ext. 1110, or *North Star* managing editor Ding Polistico at 234-3000. You can also email Herbert at herbertr@nmcnet.edu or delrosarioherbert@yahoo.com and Ding at nstar@pticom.com.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Tel. 234-7145/7146/6293/6245
Saipan, MP 96950

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

ON AN APPLICATION FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT AND REBATE OF CERTAIN CNMI TAXES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

A. ***Public hearing.*** In accordance with the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and pursuant to the rule-making procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act, the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) will conduct a public hearing at the *Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan*, on *Thursday*, *June 26*, 2008, at *10:00 a.m.* on the application of *Saipan Laulau Development, Inc. d.b.a. Laolao Bay Golf Resort*, Applicant, for a Qualifying Certificate, which request is for tax relief by way of abatement and rebate of CNMI taxes in consideration of Applicant's proposed *construction and operation of a golftel facility, including the renovation of its existing 36-hole golf course*, all pursuant to the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and as set out in the Applicant's application for a Qualifying Certificate.

B. ***Nature of hearing.*** This hearing shall be open to the public. Oral or written statements will be received from anyone wishing to testify thereat, which statement will be incorporated into the records of the hearing.

C. ***Further information.*** For further information, please contact CDA's Acting Chief Executive Officer at 234-7145/7146/6293/6245, or at the CDA office at Wakin's Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan.

/s/ Oscar C. Camacho
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor - Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan , MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW08-IFB-022

ANYUTA ISLAND REVETMENT REPAIR, ROTA

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Anyuta Island Revetment Repair located in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (ROTA).

The project package will be available on or after June 12, 2008 at DPW Technical Services Division, 2d Floor-Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (US$100.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on July 1, 2008, 1:00 p.m. local time at the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Rota. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on July 9, 2008 to Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, DPW 2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 235-6346.

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW08-IFB-022". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 p.m. local time July 14, 2008. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 p.m. local time July 14, 2008, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 14, 2008, and be received no later than July 23, 2O08. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 2:00 p.m. local time, July 28, 2008, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 2:00 p.m. local time, on July 17, 2008.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660".

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in confomiance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is one hundred fifty (150) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at three hundred dollars (US$300.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN M. APATANG
Resident Director

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

VIRGINIA C. VILLAGOMEZ
Governor's Authorized Representative (GM)

CUC, PUC officials summoned to Senate

Subway donates meal vouchers to Oceania volunteers

Subway Investments Corp. has donated 50 meal vouchers to volunteers of this year's Oceania Championships and Oceania Grand Prix.

The donation was handed over by Stella Fong, Subway Investments Corp. vice president, to Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb, chairman of the Oceania local organizing committee, in the Subway office at Transpacific Business Center in Gualo Rai on June 19.

Fong said the donation, given upon the organizing committee's request, was a token of S Subway's support for the volunteers and the event itself, while keeping in line with efforts to promote a healthy lifestyle.

"Sports events like the Oceania and Subway go together because both adhere to a healthy lifestyle. That was why we did not hesitate when we received their request," Fong said.

Tebuteb, who sits on the board of the Northern Marianas Athletics, which coordinated the regional sports event, said he was very pleased that Subway gave 50 meal vouchers.

"This is a lot," he said. "These vouchers will go a long way. They will only be for the volunteers. We are very happy and I am very, very thankful to Subway for the support."

Tebuteb, who said he himself is a regular Subway customer, said he prefers Subway's sandwiches over those offered by other fastfood chains on island because of the nutritional value the sandwiches have.

Subway is the only restaurant chain in the CNMI offering health foods.

The Oceania Championships and Oceania Grand Prix, which brought together top athletes across the region, kicked off on June 21, and will be held until June 28.

Approximately 300 athletes and officials from 21 member federations are expected to be on Saipan for the event.

Participants include teams from Australia and New Zealand, American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Norfolk Island, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Tonga and Vanuatu. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Stella Fong, Subway Investments Corp. vice president, hands over 50 Subway meal vouchers to Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb, chairman of the Oceania local organizing committee; in the Subway office at Transpacific Business Center in Gualo Rai on June 19. The meal vouchers were donated for the sports event's volunteers.

The executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and members of the Public Utilities Commission have been called to testify on four utility-related bills now before the Senate.

The Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications will hold a public hearing on Monday to receive testimonies on the CUC bills and related issues. The public hearing will be held on Monday, June 30, 2008, starting at 10am, in the Senate chamber in the Legislature.

The witnesses include CUC executive director Antonio Muna, Attorney General Matthew Gregory, and PUC members Viola Alepuyo, Kyle Calabrese, and Kimberlyn King-Hinds.

They are expected to comment on three separate House-approved bills calling for the privatization of the Commonwealth's power system, granting discounts on customers' power bills, and setting stricter meter reading procedures for CUC.

A Senate bill requiring CUC to lower water rates for commercial farmers and ranchers will also be discussed.

The other items on the agenda are the status of the Saipan power plant repair project, the recently signed contract for rental generators, and the power situation on Tinian and Rota. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust have scheduled a Board of Trustees Special Meeting for Friday, June 27, 2008 beginning at 10:00 AM on the 1st Floor of the Morgen Building, Suite #106, San Jose; Saipan, MP.

The following agenda is hereby established:

I PRELIMINARIES
Call to Order
Roll Call
Adoption of Agenda

II NEW BUSINESS
DPL Issues

III EXECUTIVE SESSION
At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

V MISCELLANEOUS

VII ADJOURNMENT

* It is anticipated that the following matters will be discussed under Executive Session in its entirety.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body.

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Alvaro A. Santos
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Welcome Little Leaguers!

On behalf of the staff and management of our Tan Holdings affiliates throughout the region, we welcome all participants of the Asia Pacific Regional Little League Baseball Tounament.
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NMC president underscores progress

Stressing that the Northern Marianas College is on course to meet accreditation requirements by the Oct. 15, 2008, deadline set by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, NMC President Dr. Carmen Fernandez recently highlighted many of the college's accomplishments in a meeting with the commission's representatives.

Most notably, according to Fernandez, is the college's successful efforts to resolve 11 of the 14 findings that were identified in the financial audit. The findings involve the periodic review of receivables, monitoring of interdepartmental funds, fixed asset valuation, accounting procedures, and others.

As case in point, Fernandez reported, the college has made considerable progress toward resolving its accumulated debt to the NMI Retirement Fund, which was one of the other issues raised by the financial audit. The audit finding regarding NMC's accumulated debt of about $3 million to the Retirement Fund has been corrected through the efforts of Gov. BENIGNO R. Fitial's assumption of debt for FY2005-2006 and approval of Public Law 16-2, which reduces NMC's employer share from 36.77 percent to 11 percent.

During her presentation to ACCJC officials, Fernandez also highlighted the following:

■ NMC completed the development of a compliance action plan that consolidates all accreditation-related activities required with timeframes for completion. The document has been shared extensively with the community at large.

■ The U.S. Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs approved a $375,000 federal grant for consultative services to facilitate and support NMC's program review, student learning outcomes, planning, and evaluation efforts.

■ Recent campus visits, presentations, and training sessions made by off-island guests have helped guide the campus community toward full compliance with accreditation standards. These guests have included Dr. Wilson Hess, president of the College of the Marshall Islands; Doug Dykstra, vice chancellor for Academic Affairs at Hawaii Community College; Dr. Ray Somera, academic vice president for Guam Community College, as well as ACCJC Commissioner Floyd Takeuchi and ACCJC president Dr. Barbara Beno.

■ The college has made remarkable progress with the collection and analysis of institutional data in support of program review and assessment. Already, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness has made strides in attaining and distributing student achievement data and other key information. ***(NMC)***

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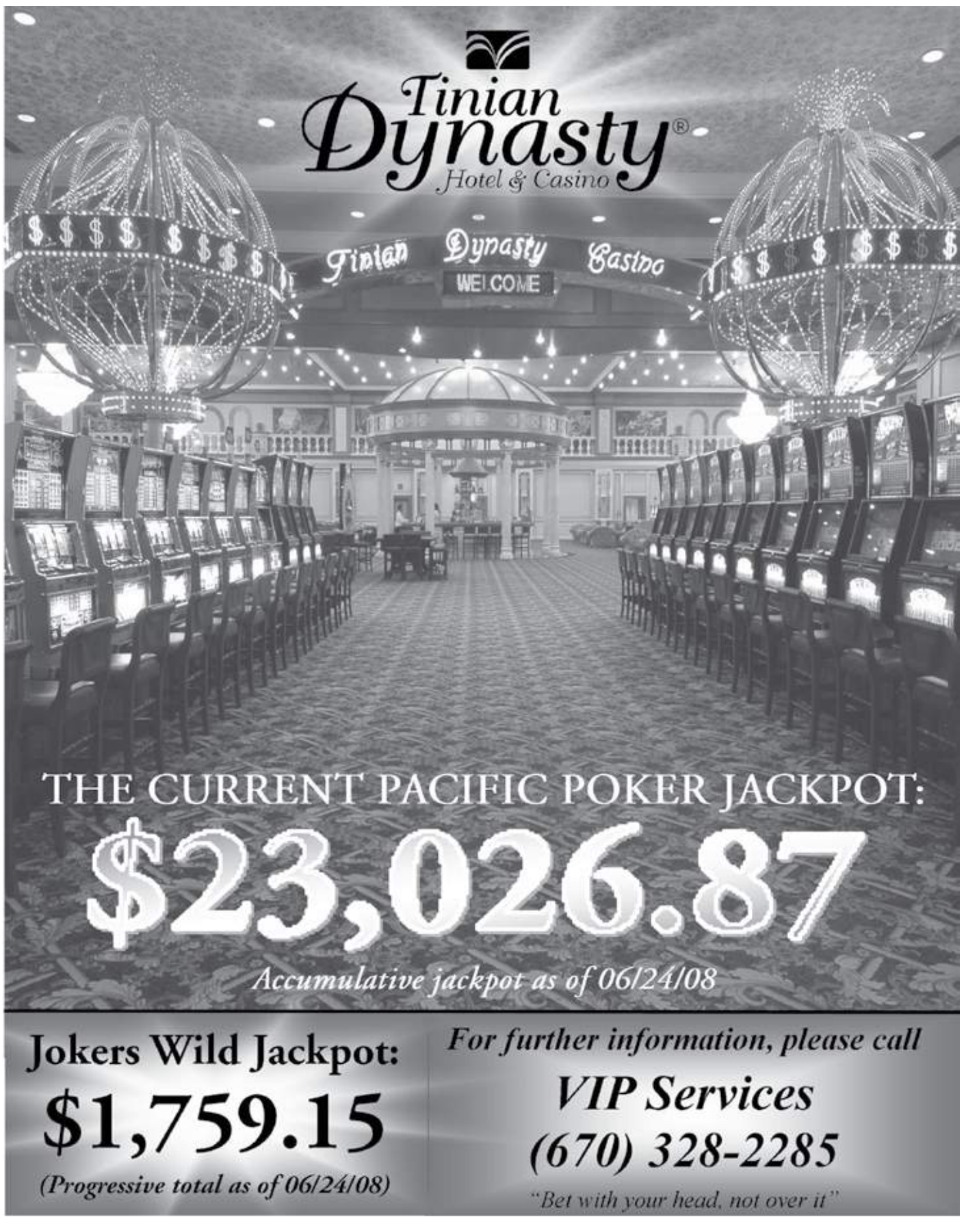

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 26, 2000

Active campaign pressed vs food-borne diseases
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has ordered continuous public health campaign on the islands to raise awareness on food poisoning following the recent incident at a wedding reception that downed nearly 100 guests. He said he has asked the Department of Public Health to intensify its education campaign to prevent the incident from happening again.

Battle for Hillblom fortune continues
Nearly three months since the distribution of the remaining assets of the multi-million estate of the late business tycoon Larry Hillblom to his heirs and their lawyers, the battle over his fortune continues in court. U.S. District Judge Alex R. Munson on Friday denied a motion for partial summary judgment sought by a lawyer for Junior Larry Hillbroom against the lawsuit brought by a New York-based journalist last April.

Manglona sworn in as associate justice
Supreme Court Associate Justice John A. Manglona was sworn into office Friday as he emphasized the need to improve the judiciary's relationship with the public. During a ceremony held at the Guma Hustisia, Justice Manglona outlined several ways to boost the public's trust confidence in the court.

June 26, 2001

Personnel chief relieved
The Civil Service Commission flexed its newly-restored powers over the Office of Personnel Management on Friday by relieving Mathilda "Keiko" Rosario as Personnel Officer. In a tersely-worded memorandum dated June 22, the commissioners, led by its chairman, Vicente M. Sablan, relieved Rosario of her post as chief of the Office of Personnel Management and appointed CSC Executive Director Norbert S. Sablan as acting personnel officer. The relief took effect immediately.

DPH may sever ties with Straub
The Department of Public Health is eyeing the possibility of breaking its ties with Straub Clinic and Hospital due to apprehensions that the health provider would continue to demand on-the-spot payment from CNMI referral patients. Medical Referral Office Administrator Joseph C. Santos said talks are underway at the Department of Public Health about whether to continue present arrangement with Straub, in light of some incidents where it allegedly turned away patients.

One-stop licensing center mulled
In a bid to attract more investors to set up businesses in the Commonwealth, the House Committee on Judicial and Government Operations has recommended the passage of a bill that would pave the way for the creation of a one-stop business license center, to streamline the process in securing business licenses. Rep. Dino M. Jones, committee chairman, said that House Bill 12-103 CD1 is appropriate and necessary as it would eventually expedite the business license application process.

June 26, 2002

Heinz warns vs. too much involvement in Verizon sale
House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider cautioned yesterday against too much government interference in the sale of Verizon Pacifica to the Citadel consortium. Although he conceded that security questions remain a legitimate concern, Hofschneider said too much government intervention in what is basically a private business transaction could result in a deterioration of services or an escalation of service rates.

11 burial sites found in Hopwood
The Historical Preservation Office discovered 11 burial sites at the Hopwood Junior High School in San Antonio since it started its campus-wide excavation activities prior to the installation of the $1.17 million fiber optic project for the E-rate program. HPO Consulting Archaeologist Lon Bulgrin disclosed that Hopwood grounds yielded skeletal remains, old pottery, and other archaeological finds that date back to the latté period. Bulgrin said Hopwood is one of the ancient sites where remains of ancient villages were discovered, adding that artifacts collected are 2,005 years old.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

The Mugabe choice

"Only God will remove me."

With this public vow, Zimbabwe's strongman president, Robert Mugabe, officially ended the campaign for the presidential runoff election that is to be held on Friday. The campaign had already turned brutal, with Mugabe's thugs making nightly visits to opposition supporters, beating them, arresting them and forcing tens of thousands of people out of their homes. At least 85 opposition figures have reportedly been killed. Still, other African leaders—notably Mugabe's chief enabler, South African President Thabo Mbeki—looked the other way.

But when Mugabe, who has ruled Zimbabwe for 28 years, announces that only God and not mere voters will remove him from office, why bother with an election?

Opposition candidate Morgan Tsvangirai got the message. He quit his campaign on Sunday, saying he could no longer ask supporters to endanger themselves for what was not an election but a war. Tsvangirai then sought refuge in the Dutch Embassy after Mugabe's men raided his headquarters, dragging away about 60 people.

Will the world finally take Mugabe at his megalomaniacal word? Until now, the U.N. Security Council, which Mbeki had obstructed, and the African Union, which was formed to prevent precisely the kind of catastrophe that is now unfolding in Zimbabwe, have allowed Mugabe to follow in the bloody footsteps of African dictators past. Will they now act to forestall a repeat of the unchecked excesses of Uganda's Idi Amin, the Central African Republic's Jean-Bedel Bokassa or Congo's kleptocratic Mobutu Sese Seko?

We're about to find out. The U.N. Security Council on Monday was poised to declare that the campaign of violence has "made it impossible for a free and fair election to take place on June 27." The watered-down language of the resolution stopped short of blaming Mugabe's forces for the violence. But it did indicate that the results of the last election—won by Tsvangirai—should stand. The U.N. must now send an investigative team to Harare to report on the violence. More important, it must come up with a plan for forcing Mugabe to take responsibility for his depredations.

Meanwhile, the African Union should send a high-profile team of diplomats and notables with the stature to privately urge Mugabe to retire, now, perhaps to a quiet farm in Namibia. He may be immune to international pressure, but the people in his inner circle can be made to understand how unpleasant their lives will be if they persist in holding their miserable citizens hostage to his rule.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

Brushes with death

By RIK AND JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

An incident occurred this week to help us refocus what is really important and to adjust our priorities. Our daughter, Chantelle, and her husband, Jari, decided to take a vacation this summer and let us spend three weeks of quality time with our granddaughter, Leila.

Their first stop is in the Philippines, and then they'll visit Thailand and other countries. While they've been gone, we have heard from them by e-mail about every day. However, we were concerned when we did not hear from them last Saturday and Sunday, especially when we learned that Typhoon Frank was ravaging the Philippines.

On Monday, Chantelle called to let us know they were okay. They had taken a super ferry from Manila to Cebu. The trip is normally 25 hours, but the typhoon had caused the captain to seek refuge in a small circle of islands that helped diffuse the waves, and they were delayed for an additional 30 hours. While they were stranded, they learned about the fate of another ferry that had also left from Manila for Cebu just two hours after theirs.

The *Princess of the Stars* ferry officially listed 626 passengers, and 121 crewmembers onboard, but local reports have the total as high as 845, including 50 children. The massive waves caused by Typhoon Frank's 120 miles per hour winds capsized the ferry near Sibuyan Island. Some passengers were able to don life jackets and jump overboard into the turbulent waters on Saturday. Life rafts offered no protection as the strong winds flipped them over. Only 38 survivors were reported as of Monday, but an additional 66 survivors were recently found in a state of shock along the shorelines of Masbate.

It's humbling to think that if our kids had taken the ferry two hours later, they could have been numbered among the missing passengers. We feel for those who have family or friends that were onboard the capsized ferry, and can imagine their devastation. You may have experienced the premature loss of a loved one from an accident, natural disaster, war, or violent crime. Brushes with death help us remember what life is really about.

In our workshops, we encourage participants to recognize the underlying values that direct their thinking, attitudes, and behaviors. Whether you consciously realize it, everything you do is consistent and aligned with your core values. Even though you may tell the world that you have certain values, it is what you think, do, and say that truly reveals what is most important to you.

One exercise we conduct with workshop attendees is the "I-beam" test. Imagine you are on the top of one of two very high buildings (on Saipan we use the Hafa Adai Hotel building). Between the buildings is a long, 50-foot I-beam; named because it looks like an "I" when viewed from the end. You see another individual on top of the other building holding a large bag, and she tells you that if you cross the I-beam, she'll give you the bag that contains one million dollars. You quickly evaluate the risk of falling to your death or the possibility of earning a sizable reward before making your decision.

When asked how many would walk across the I-beam, there will be several that raise their hands, while the majority feels it is not worth the hazard. The scenario changes and there is a strong wind that is blowing with gusts of 30mph. In addition, it has started to drizzle and the metal of the I-beam has become a little slippery. How many of you would cross the I-beam under those circumstances? We'll occasionally have one or two raise their hand, but the others consider it an act of foolishness.

The situation changes now, and the lady opens the bag to reveal, not one million dollars, but a young child. Picture your child or a child you dearly love. She grabs and holds the struggling child over the edge of the building and yells that if you do not cross the I-beam in less than two minutes, she'll drop the child. Would you cross? Would you even hesitate?

When we ask how many would now cross the I-beam in our workshops, usually all of the hands go up. What has changed? Money is not valued over most people's lives, but they would not hesitate to risk their life to save the life of a loved one. During the harrowing experience aboard the *Princess of the Stars* ferry, we doubt that the passengers' last thoughts were focused on their house, car, investments, or other worldly possessions.

In life's circumstances it is sometimes easy to let our values slip so that "things" become more important than people. Brushes with death often act to realign our values so that relationships with family, friends, or Deity are valued higher than those things that are temporal in nature.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Telesource CNMI Inc. statement

As Sen. John McCain says, no matter who wins the election, there will be change. Drastic change is exactly what we require at the CUC. It is refreshing to finally see a momentum developing among our elected leaders to insist upon and to bring about this change, without regard to partisan politics or special interests. Also, there are certain private citizens who have all along spoken out against the lack of transparency and mismanagement of the CUC. These voices we hope will soon be vindicated.

How many consultants has the CUC hired, and how many times has it issued power privatization RFPs, and how many times has it been determined that CUC failed to write or manage a fair procurement process? It is time to call a spade a spade, and it is time for change. Telesource applauds Mr. Antonio Muna for his willingness to assume the executive directorship of the CUC. It is not an enviable role to be sure. We encourage Mr. Muna to be courageous and to show his well recognized independence of thought, strength and fortitude.

CUC has more than doubled its rates in recent weeks and Telesource believes this is the correct step for now. But, can CUC be operating more efficiently, with more fuel efficient engines, with less line loss and at substantial savings to the consumers from the current rates? The answer is a resounding YES! Unfortunately however, the CUC has been unable or unwilling to make the right decisions that would benefit our consumers. If the Administration focused only on what's in the interest of the CNMI people and put aside special interests, there is no doubt that they can bring about the type of change required.

This week CUC has signed an agreement for the supply of emergency power. The legal basis for the contract is suspect, to say the least. But the costs associated with the contract are exorbitant compared to the alternatives available locally. Why hasn't CUC investigated these alternatives? Why won't CUC acknowledge that Telesource has 10 MW of power that it can bring from Tinian at a cost nearly 50 percent less than what CUC will now pay Aggreko for emergency power? While CUC is deciding to pay double rates for badly needed energy, why don't they pay Telesource for the energy it provides Tinian? Is it possible that the Administration doesn't welcome Telesource as a partner in finding solutions to the power crisis on Saipan? Is it possible that CUC already has Administration-nominated preferred service, but not solution, providers? The recent contracts issued by CUC on an emergency basis for which there has been no accountability are appalling. Who is benefiting? Telesource will continue to protest and speak out when we see wrong being perpetrated. We anticipate and look forward to the day when the people in charge of CUC are sincere in their dealings and will not attempt to cause financial hardship to those who have the courage to question and object to the obvious and gross mismanagement of the utility. Maybe it's time to give CUC its independence and allow Mr. Muna to run the agency to the best of his ability without reference to or dictates by the Administration.

We anticipate and look forward to the day when the people in charge of CUC are sincere in their dealings and will not attempt to cause financial hardship to those who have the courage to question and object to the obvious and gross mismanagement of the utility.

Telesource's dialogue with CUC about payment of outstanding invoices has come to a stop because CUC has again failed to live up to its promises. We are currently owed $829,420 and our letters of June 4 and June 12, 2008, notifying CUC that it is in breach of its contract with us have gone unanswered. As of this day Telesource can no longer purchase spare parts or other material required to operate the engines on Tinian. With over $829,420 owed to us let there be no mistake about why we are unable to procure lube oil to run the generators.

Without the courage to do the right thing the required change will never come to the CNMI. It is refreshing to know, however, that our people are waking up and the majority of our elected officials will not stand for this type of mismanagement any longer. Telesource for its part will be ready to assist in any way possible as long as transparency and fairness are the order of business.

Like every other company Telesource is going through hardship on Tinian. We have 20 MW of excellent fuel efficient generators but run only 4MW. We provide state-of-the-art efficient power to Tinian and meet or exceed all international standards. Yet we are treated by the CUC without any regard. This, however, will not deter us from standing ready to work with CUC on Saipan but only pursuant to reasonable and commercially sound business practices by all involved.

An atmosphere of fairness and reliability will create confidence in CUC's creditors and will also allow us to attract outside investment and bring significant infusions of capital into the CNMI. Short of this, neither Telesource nor any other international firm will want to enter or expand its presence in the CNMI. This is simple 101 business practice and principles.

Telesource CNMI Inc.
San Jose Village, Tinian

Arts Council and Museum are a net gain to CNMI

To set the record straight, and perhaps enlighten Mr. Curt Klemstein, while the Flame Tree Arts Festival is a grand and very public activity, it was only one of hundreds that the Arts Council held annually. It may not have even ranked as the most important. Annually, the Arts Council facilitated well over 100 in-school, after-school and summer programs for students and youth, and other community grants activities. The Arts Council provided arts programs for the kids at the detention center. The Arts Council coordinated teacher development programs. The millennium canoe voyage, the Festival of the Pacific Arts traditional canoe voyage, and numerous classes on navigation and canoe sailing, were facilitated by the Arts Council. The construction of the traditional Utts of the Chamolinian village and at the Carolinian Affairs Office were supported by the Arts Council. Theater and drama performances were supported by the Arts Council. The Tinian and Rota Arts Festivals were supported by the Arts Council. The first CNMI Film Festival was possible through the Arts Council. The participation of CNMI artists at the Festival of the Pacific Arts and Cultures in New Caledonia and Palau was coordinated by the Arts Council. Exhibits of artist work and performance in Korea, Japan, Hawaii, the mainland U.S., Guam, Palau and New Caledonia were coordinated by the Arts Council. Youth center arts programs, Scouting arts workshops, mural projects, ports exhibits, hotel exhibits, gallery exhibits, incoming passenger performances, Man'amko center activities, coordination of the Garapan Street Market, and many other activities were all carried out by the Arts Council.

This information may all be new to you. Despite your perception, the Arts Council was incredibly active, and we were usually very busy juggling any given number of activities at the same time.

With regard to the Museum, you are correct in stating that our primary duty is service as the repository of historic material. This duty does not mean simply tossing historic material into a vacant warehouse. Inherent is the responsibility to ensure these materials are responsibly stored and cared for. Logically, there is also a responsibility to have them reasonably accessible. Which brings us to the lion's share of the expenses of the Museum, which are the utilities to run necessary air-conditioning, humidity control and security systems essential to the basic maintenance of these materials. Photographs, documents, and textiles especially, will deteriorate rapidly without this maintenance. Many of the collections come with specific requirements that the CNMI government or the museum agreed to, with respect to their management and care. The storage facility is the major cost of the museum. It is a cost that will remain even if the museum closes its doors. This would also mean the likely return of a number of collections.

I think it is wise to review the past history of collections that were simply stored, prior to the opening of the museum. The history is, we have very few of these collections that were once in storage. For whatever reasons, they walked away, they were lost, they deteriorated, or were burned in fires. The museum did not inherit a large collection of locally stored historic material. As I stated in my previous letter, the museum has worked hard to obtain the collections it has, and as a result of the existence of the museum, owners of collections of historic materials are willing to turn them over. This will cease should the museum close its doors.

There are a great many other considerations to be made as well, when advocating for the closure. The revenue generated locally by the museum for example. There are the visitor entry fees, there are the expenditures of the researchers and visitors who come specifically to work with the museum, there is the enhancement of the activities available to off-island visitors, and there are the funds the museum brings in outside of the CNMI in the form of grants and assistance. There are the thousands of CNMI students who benefit from the museum.

The museum has worked hard to obtain the collections it has, and as a result of the existence of the museum, owners of collections of historic materials are willing to turn them over.

In short, closing these programs would be absolutely counterproductive to the CNMI. The CNMI would be a poorer place economically and generally, should these programs shut down.

I would argue that we haven't invested even close to enough in our arts, our culture, and our cultural tourism infrastructure. This I believe is one of our problems where our identity as a unique visitor destination is concerned. This is a point that has been made by our off-island visitors over the past decade. You are right to point out the problems with the gallery at Capital Hill. An average exhibit would see 100 to 300 people, a mere fraction of the audience they should have garnered. This is probably more the case now, with the cost of fuel and the climb up the hill. A public gallery in an accessible area is long overdue. These are not programs that will be picked-up by the private sector.

With regard to your popping in to meet with me, I offer an apology. My work at the Arts Council often required me to survey Arts Council community grant activities, to conduct workshops, to attend meetings in the community, to provide grant applicant assistance, to meet with potential donors, to pick up supplies, to get quotations, to meet with program vendors, to sit in on a variety of planning meetings, and as we were subjects of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, to attend many departmental meetings and departmental programs and activities. Needless to say, I was required to be out of the office to attend to these things. If you were to have popped in to the museum in the morning yesterday and today, you would have missed me as well, as I had to attend to a meeting with our Board Chair, deliver documents to Finance, take inventory of, pack, and transport eleven boxes of historic material, pick up a donated item, and pick up supplies for the grounds maintenance equipment. So it is not a future point of contention, the documents were printed on donated paper, from the personal printer of a museum employee, I used my own vehicle, my own fuel, and purchased the oil for our bushcutter out of pocket. Tomorrow morning I will be down at the American Memorial Park, to load up donated display cases and transport them to the museum. It is always best to schedule meetings in advance.

I'll end by again posing the question, with a revised and more accurate figure, that takes into account funding the museum has brought in through grants, assistance, donations, ticket sales and commissions on gift shop sales over the past year. Would it make any sense to close down these programs for what amounts to 4.8 hours of CUC costs per year? If you figure the direct and indirect economic benefits, and the educational, cultural, and social benefits of both of these programs, you'd find their closure to be a huge net loss to the CNMI.

Robert Hunter
Executive Director
NMI Museum of History and Culture

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79	▲88° ▼79°

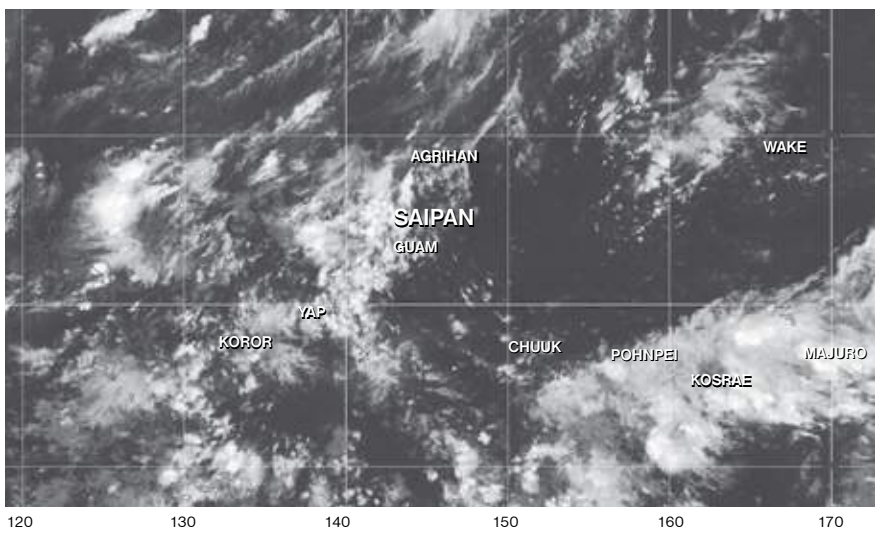
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼73
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼73

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲61	▼53
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲84	▼73
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲90	▼82
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲83	▼75
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲73	▼55
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲78	▼62
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲59	▼48
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼81
New York	Thundershowers	▲92	▼72
Osaka	Showers	▲78	▼66
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲74	▼56
Pusan	Cloudy	▲76	▼62
Rome	Showers	▲90	▼67
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲74	▼49
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲70	▼55
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲84	▼62
Tokyo	Rain	▲75	▼65
Washington, DC	Hot	▲93	▼73

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends southeastward from 22N131E to a weak surface low centered near 20N134E then continues southward to end at EQ135E. Convergence associated with the trough and circulation is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms west of the Marianas and over Yap and Koror within an area bounded by a line from 5N130E to 10N140E to 14N144E to 18N144E to 22N138E to 22N136E to 11N139E to 11N135E back to 5N130E. Another surface trough arcs northward from 2N143E to 9N143E. Convergence near and east of the trough is producing scattered showers and few thunderstorms well east of Yap within 100 miles of a line extending from eq149E to 10N140E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Pohnpei, Kosrae and the Marshall Islands within 200 miles of a line from 2N153E to 11N175E. An upper-level low is centered north of Wake Island beyond 25N. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the low are occurring west of Wake Island within an area bounded by a line from 25N165E to 20N155E to 18N162E to 21N166E back to 25N165E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:58AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
7:35AM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
12:36PM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
6:50PM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:49AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:49AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:50AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:50AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:50AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today		11:25AM
Friday	12:08AM	12:48PM
Saturday	12:49AM	1:44PM
Sunday	1:34AM	2:46PM
Monday	2:25AM	3:51PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily
Saipan-Manila			
CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7
Guam-Manila			
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou			
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6
Guam-Hongkong			
CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily via Nagoya
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily
Manila-Saipan			
CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7
Manila-Guam			
CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Guanzhou-Saipan			
CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5
Hongkong-Guam			
CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5
Rota-Guam			
CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Carmen Safeway SUPERMARKET

OPEN DAILY 6:00AM (MONDAY-SUNDAY)

JUNE 26-30, 2008

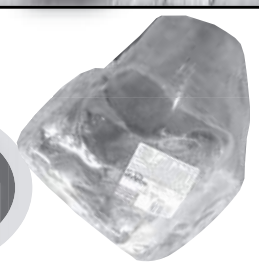
Chivas Life:
Chivas Regal 12 yrs. old
4.5 liter Giveaway/July 4th
Come in for details.

End of the Month Savings

Chicken Whole Fryer 30# — $35.00/cs.

Beef Spareribs 20# BBQ or Adobo Cut — $18.99/cs.

U.S. Pork Leg Whole B/I — $1.89/lb.

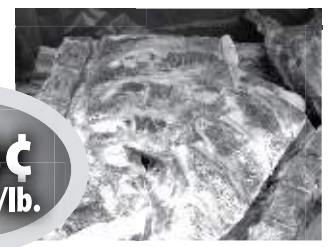


U.S. Beef Marrow Bones — 79¢/lb.

US Beef Brisket "Choice for Tinala" — $2.69/lb.

Lamb Rack Aust. 18pc. — $7.39/lb.

U.S. Pork Neck Bones — 99¢/lb.



U.S. Beef Tripe Scalded — $1.39/lb.

U.S. Pork Intestine "small" — $4.29/lb.

Campbell's Spaghetti 14.75oz. — 99¢/ea.

Campbell's Pork and Beans 8oz. — 69¢/ea.

S&W Stewed Tomatoe 14.50oz. — 99¢/ea.

GROCERIES

Old El Paso Taco Shell 18ct. — $2.99/ea.

Hamburger Helper Beef Pasta 5.6 oz. — $1.29/ea.

Zee Napkins 360 ct. — $3.49/ea.

Axxion Plates 125 ct. — $6.34/ea.

Lysol Clnr Apple 32 oz. — $2.19/ea.

Joy Lemon 90 oz. — $5.99/ea.

House Vermont Med 250g. Jpn. — $2.29/ea.

GROCERIES

WF Tomato Sauce 8oz. 6pk.	99¢
Kraft Stovetop Chkn 12oz.	$2.99
B.C. Scalloped Potatoes 7.8oz.	$1.99
W/Family Whole Tomatoe 14.5oz.	69¢
S&B Hot Mustard 43g. Jpn	79¢
Scoop Away Cat Litter 7lb.	$2.99
Paire Ware Plastic Forks 300ct.	$8.99
Paire Ware Plastic Spoon 300ct.	$8.99
Kao Det. Attack 1.1kg. Jpn	$7.29
Tide Liq. Det. W/B Mntn 100oz.	$8.99
Tide Liq. Cln Brz W/B 100oz.	$8.99
Smoca T/Pwdr Green 155g. Jpn	$1.99
Smoca T/Pwdr Red 155g. Jpn	$1.99
Formula 409 Glass & Surface 32 oz.	$2.99
Campbell's Spaghetti w/ Chz. 14.75oz.	99¢
Hormel Chili Hot w/ Beans 15oz.	$1.39
Dinty Moore Beef Stew 40oz.	$3.99
Campbell's Pork & Beans 8oz.	69¢
Sun Flower Mackerel 15oz. Jpn	$1.49
S&W Asparagus Spears 15oz.	$2.99
S&W Stewed Tomatoes 14.5oz.	99¢
Heinz Ketchup 44 oz.	$3.69
Vlasic Kosher Whole Gal.	$5.99
Takeya Tokujyo Miso 1kg. Jpn	$4.99
House Vermont Hot 250g. Jpn	$2.29
House Vermont Mild 250g. Jpn	$2.29
House Java Curry 220g. Jpn	$2.29
House Indian Curry Reg. 240g.	$2.29
House Indian Curry Hot 240g.	$2.29
House Java Curry Mild 220g.	$2.29

PRODUCE

Onion, Yellow U.S. — 47¢/lb.

Cabbage, Green U.S. — 79¢/lb.

Bell Pepper, Green U.S. — $1.46/lb.

Cabbage Napa U.S. — $1.15/lb.

Apple, Red Delicious U.S. — $1.39/lb.

Pineapple Local — $1.59/lb.

PRODUCE

Potato, Russet U.S.	65¢/lb.
Garlic, Netted U.S.	$1.14/lb.
Pear, D'Anjou U.S.	$1.63/lb.
Orange Choice U.S.	97¢/lb.

LIQUEUR/WINES

Brut, Freixnet Cordon 375ml. — $7.55/ea.

Torres 10 Brandy 700ml. — $17.09/ea.

Liqueur, Dita Lychee 700ml. — $25.65/ea.

Gekke Plum Wine 500ml. — $8.15/ea.

Vodka, Perez Barquero 1L.	$15.11
Wine, Chianti Bellagio 750ml.	$13.28
Nikka Whisky All Malt 700ml.	$17.96
Kanoka Shochu 300ml.	$5.57
Kendall-Jackson Chardonnay 750ml.	$10.16
Sauv. Blanc, Beringer 750ml.	14.39

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Bordallo meets with RP's President Arroyo

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo is participating this week in meetings with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Republic of the Philippines.

Arroyo arrived in Washington, D.C., Tuesday for a series of meetings to discuss environmental protection, United States foreign assistance, and regional economic integration, among other issues, with key U.S. government leaders including President Bush and members of Congress.

Today, members of the Congressional U.S.-Philippines Friendship Caucus will receive Arroyo on Capitol Hill. On Tuesday, Bordallo joined Arroyo at a luncheon meeting with stakeholders of the "Coral Triangle Initiative."

The Coral Triangle Initiative is an international partnership in the East Asian and Pacific region addressing two major threats: resource exploitation and climate change effects. The Coral Triangle Initiative focuses on protecting coral reefs from man-made and natural disturbances, developing sustainable fisheries, and ensuring food security for the region's inhabitants. Several countries in the region, including Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands have partnered to launch the Coral Triangle Initiative, and leaders in each of these countries are working together to enlist more international partners both from within the non-governmental community and among neighboring nation-state governments for the initiative.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo, chairwoman, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans, U.S. House of Representatives; President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Republic of the Philippines. On Monday, June 23, 2008, Bordallo joined Arroyo at a luncheon on the "Coral Triangle Initiative."

During the discussion at the luncheon meeting, Bordallo reaffirmed her commitment to international coral reef conservation, and commended the leaders and stakeholders that were present for launching the Coral Triangle Initiative.

"The Coral Triangle Initiative is an excellent example of multinational cooperation and partnership to protect our world's most biologically diverse and richest concentration of corals," said Bordallo. "It is an initiative whose success is underwritten with support from both the public and private sector, and I commend President Macapagal-Arroyo for her leadership in support of the Coral Triangle Initiative."

As chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans, Bordallo said she remains committed to advancing coral reef conservation. Earlier this year, Bordallo introduced H. Con. Res. 300 to recognize the necessity for the United States to maintain its significant leadership role in improving the health and promoting the resiliency of coral reef ecosystems, which passed in the House of Representatives in May.

Bordallo also supports the Micronesia Challenge, an initiative spearheaded by President Remengesau of Palau and of which Guam is a partner to conserve 30 percent of marine resources and 20 percent of terrestrial resources across Micronesia by the year 2020.

Bordallo is also an original cosponsor and supporter of H.R. 1205, the Coral Reef Conservation Amendments Act of 2007. Both H.R 1205 and H. Con. Res. 300 are pending in the U.S. Senate. ***(PR)***

REUNION MEETING CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Marianas High School Class of '88 take the time out for a group photo after a recent reunion meeting held at the residence of Melvin and Eleanor in As Lito.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, rear, are Eleanor A. Cepeda, JJ Cabrera, and Liz C. Palacios. In front, Esther F. Sound and Tina C. Pangelinan took the time out for a photo session after the meeting.

PRIVATE LUNCHEON CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jesse V. Sablan, general manager of CMS Inc. (Joeten Enterprises), right, poses with Gen. James T. Conway, Commander of the U.S. Marine Corps, during a private luncheon in Guam on June 21, 2008.

SPC hosts Pacific Regional Rights Resource Team

NOUMEA, New Caledonia—On July 1 2008, the Pacific Regional Rights Resource Team, better known as RRRT, will join the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

RRRT is at the forefront in advocating for human rights, social justice and good governance throughout the Pacific region and its role in providing training and technical assistance in these areas fits well with SPC's integrated approach to regional development based on capacity building.

RRRT was established in 1995 in Suva, Fiji, as a DFID (UK Department for International Development) project for women's legal literacy but was expanded to take on more general human rights work in 1998. In 2001, when DFID left the region, RRRT looked for another home and became a United Nations Development Program (UNDP) with the PRAJA project – Poverty Reduction with Access to Justice for All.

The decision to move to SPC follows a change of direction for UNDP that made it difficult for RRRT to retain its current form. After consultations between the agency, UNDP, SPC and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in 2007, it was decided that locating RRRT within SPC for an initial period of three years would provide the best option for sustaining its technical work in the region, while looking at more permanent long-term solutions. RRRT's advocacy role will be carried out under the Forum Secretariat, and its technical training, research, technical assistance and capacity development functions under SPC.

Sandra Bernklau, project manager for RRRT says, "Our strategic planning for 2008–2012 sets a new goal of working toward the establishment of a Regional Human Rights Commission and we're very excited to be embarking on this 10-year goal under the SPC umbrella."

RRRT currently works in eight countries in the region – Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

"With SPC hosting us, we'll be able to expand our focus to embrace the whole of SPC's membership—all 22 Pacific Island countries and territorie," said Bernklau.'

Commenting on the move, SPC Director-General Dr Jimmie Rodgers said, "We're very pleased to welcome the RRRT team on board and assure them of our full support. I'd personally like to commend this agency for its commitment to protecting human rights in the region and for the changes it has already initiated. Protection of human rights is fundamental to development and it's a privilege for SPC to be able to assist this cause by hosting RRRT." ***(SPC)***

Business

World now has 10 million millionaires

NEW YORK (AP)—Add an extra zero to the ranks of the millionaires club.

The number of people around the world with at least $1 million in assets passed 10 million for the first time last year, according to a new report. And their bank accounts are growing even faster.

The combined wealth of the globe's millionaires grew to nearly $41 trillion last year, an increase of 9 percent from a year before, Merrill Lynch & Co. and consulting firm Capgemini Group said Tuesday.

That means their average wealth was more than $4 million, the highest it's ever been. Home values were not included in asset totals.

"The growth of their wealth is outpacing the growth of their population, and that's a trend that's going to continue in coming years," said Ileana Van Der Linde, a principal with Capgemini.

The ranks of the wealthy are growing fastest in the developing economies of India, China and Brazil. The number of millionaires in India grew by about 23 percent.

The United States still reigns supreme when it comes to fat wallets, though: One in every three millionaires in the world lives in America. Combined, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America account for just one in 10.

All told, there were about 600,000 more millionaires in the world in 2007 than in 2006, for a total of about 10.1 million. That's a 6 percent increase from the previous year.

Ten million may seem like a big number for such an elite club, but it still represents less than one-fifth of 1 percent of the world's 6.7 billion people.

The rarefied group of the superrich—those with at least $30 million in assets—got richer, too. There were 103,000 of them around the world last year, 9 percent more than the year before, and their wealth grew by nearly 15 percent.

The 600,000 new millionaires was unsurprising to Brian Bethune, an economist with Global Insight, who said inflation and the expansion of the world economy accounts for the growth.

Besides, $1 million isn't what it used to be. One million dollars in 1996, the first year the report was issued, would have been worth about $1.3 million last year, Van Der Linde said.

Steady growth powered economies worldwide in the first half of 2007, but more mature markets were hammered in the second half by the U.S. housing and credit crises. Emerging economies were largely unaffected, the report found.

The downturn started catching up with emerging economies in the beginning of 2008, Van Der Linde said.

Already, the report found, the millionaires club wasn't expanding as fast as before. From 2005 to 2006, the group swelled by more than 8 percent. The club has grown every year since the report was started.

Because of the economic slowdown, the wealthy tended to shift their money to safer investments such as bonds and money-market savings accounts, and away from less stable investments such as real estate, the report found.

Cash deposits and fixed-income securities accounted for 44 percent of the assets of the world's millionaires, up from 35 percent in 2006.

The wealth of the world's richest is projected to reach almost $60 trillion by 2012, the report said.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil prices edge higher on concerns

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil futures ended an uneven session with a modest gain Tuesday as traders awaited news that could help the market break out of a trading range that has lasted for more than two weeks. Retail gas prices, meanwhile, slid below a national average of $4.07 a gallon. Some investors were buying in response to another drop in the dollar. In a weekly report, MasterCard's SpendingPulse survey found that demand for gasoline fell 2.7 percent last week compared to the same week last year, and is off by an average of 3.6 over the last four weeks compared to the same period in 2007.

Consumer confidence sinks to 16-year low

NEW YORK (AP)—U.S. consumers are the gloomiest they've been since the tail end of the last prolonged recession. Inflation, sinking home values and soaring gas prices have pushed confidence to the lowest level since 1992. Consumers' view of the economic future has never been lower, raising worries that already weak consumer spending could deteriorate further. The Conference Board's consumer confidence index, released Tuesday, fell to 50.4 this month, the lowest reading since February 1992 and half what it was a year ago.

Stocks end lower after drop in consumer confidence

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street ended an erratic session moderately lower Tuesday as concerns grew about the impact of high fuel costs on consumers and corporate profits. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 34.93, or 0.29 percent, to 11,807.43, after falling more than 100 points in earlier trading and later moving in and out of positive territory. The Dow dropped as low as 11,725.52—beneath the levels it sank to in March when Bear Stearns Cos. appeared to be on the verge of collapse. Broader stock indicators also fell.

US home prices tumble in April

NEW YORK (AP)—No matter who's measuring, the results are the same: Housing prices are tumbling at the sharpest rates ever with a bottom still at least a year away, economists say. Both the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller home price indices and the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight index on Tuesday reported record year-over-year declines in April, a sobering signal that the housing slump not only is deepening, but also engulfing markets once above water.

Fed gathers to plot course to best handle economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Borrowing costs are likely to hold steady as the Federal Reserve tries to avoid both stirring inflation and stifling a fragile economy. Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues opened a two-day meeting Tuesday afternoon where they will put together their most up-to-date assessment of the economy's outlook and decide the best course on interest rates. The Fed is almost certain to hold its key interest rate steady at 2 percent when it wraps up its session Wednesday. If that's the case, the prime lending rate for millions of consumers and businesses would stay at 5 percent. The prime rate applies to certain credit cards, home equity lines of credit and other loans. Looking ahead, the Fed probably will go further in highlighting inflation risks but won't go as far as to signal a rate increase at the Fed's next meeting on Aug. 5, analysts said.

Committee to Elect Juan Tudela Lizama
PLEASE VOTE

JUAN TUDELA
LIZAMA

NON-VOTING DELEGATE '08

My Dear People of the Commonwealth,

Hafa Adai! With the support and blessings of my wife, family, friends, and supporters, it is with sincere humility and honor that I take this opportunity to formally announce my candidacy for the seat of NMI Delegate to the United States Congress. I seek responsibility with the utmost respect for the Northern Mariana Islands' people, its rich history and culture, and while acknowledging the awesome cultural diversity that exists in our islands.

With my candidacy, I bring and offer my over 37 years of vast knowledge and experience in public service to which I was fortunate enough to acquire over this period of time. The skills that I have gained over the years can be attributed to my experience serving under various capacities that include: private legal practice, government service, and actively participating in countless international conventions.

I pledge to you that my number one priority would be restoring the image and once harmonious relationship the CNMI enjoyed with the U.S. Congress, the Federal government, and our neighboring international communities. It is crucial that we re-establish and maintain a unique and strong partnership with our American Family through engaging in constant and active dialogues and vibrant participation with the U.S. Congress in matters involving the commonwealth's best interests as well as its present and future political landscaping.

The challenges that presently plague the CNMI makes this upcoming election a critical one not because of the historic significance of the office but because our islands need to send a STRONG VOICE to the U.S. Congress to amplify the real pain and sufferings our people are enduring and to ask for immediate Congressional intervention and Federal Aid needed in immediately addressing these real problems.

In a few weeks, I will unveil my official platform which would contain a series of information pertaining to practical, realistic, and achievable short-term objectives and long-term goals that I believe will address the pressing issues facing our dear Commonwealth.

With hope, I humbly seek your support and vote of confidence this November 4th, 2008 and together, let us all make a difference for the betterment of our islands.

To this end, I want to invite all my family, friends, and supporters to join me for dinner and cocktail at the Saipan World Resort this Saturday, June 28, 2008, from 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Your presence is greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT,
SI YU'US MAASE, OLOOMWAY, AND SALAMAT PO

Committee to Elect Juan Tudela Lizama
Ramon F. Guerrero, Chairman | Antonio Taisakan, Treasurer

Nation

CDC says about 8 percent of Americans now have diabetes

ATLANTA (AP) -- The number of Americans with diabetes has grown to about 24 million people, or roughly 8 percent of the U.S. population, the government said Tuesday.

A report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, based on data from 2007, said the number represents an increase of about 3 million over two years. The CDC estimates another 57 million people have blood sugar abnormalities called pre-diabetes, which puts people at increased risk for the disease.

The percentage of people unaware that they have diabetes fell from 30 percent to 25 percent, according to the study.

Dr. Ann Albright, director of the CDC Division of Diabetes Translation, said the report has "both good news and bad news."

"It is concerning to know that we have more people developing diabetes, and these data are a reminder of the importance of increasing awareness of this condition, especially among people who are at high risk," Albright said in a statement.

"On the other hand, it is good to see that more people are aware that they have diabetes."

A message left Tuesday night seeking further comment from the CDC wasn't immediately returned.

The disease results from defects in insulin production that cause sugar to build up in the body. It is the seventh leading cause of death in the country and can cause serious health problems including heart disease, blindness, kidney failure and amputations.

Among adults, diabetes increased in both men and women and in all age groups, but still disproportionately affects the elderly. Almost 25 percent of the population 60 years and older had diabetes in 2007.

After adjusting for population age differences between various groups, the rate of diagnosed diabetes was highest among American Indians and Alaska Natives (16.5 percent). This was followed by blacks (11.8 percent) and Hispanics (10.4 percent), which includes rates for Puerto Ricans (12.6 percent), Mexican Americans (11.9 percent), and Cubans (8.2 percent).

By comparison, the rate for Asian Americans was 7.5 percent, with whites at 6.6 percent.

Wildfires sparked by rare lightning storm

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—In less than a day, an electrical storm unleashed nearly 8,000 lightning strikes that set more than 800 wildfires across Northern California—a rare example of "dry lightning" that brought little or no rain but plenty of sparks to the state's parched forests and grasslands.

The weekend storm was unusual not only because it generated so many lightning strikes over a large geographical area, but also because it struck so early in the season and moved in from the Pacific Ocean. Such storms usually don't arrive until late July or August and typically form southeast of California.

"You're looking at a pattern that's climatologically rare. We typically don't see this happen at this time of summer," said John Juskie, a science officer with the National Weather Service in Sacramento. "To see 8,000, that's way up there on the scale."

Thousands of firefighters battled the blazes Tuesday from the ground and air. No homes had been destroyed, but voluntary evacuations were in place for residents of at least 25 homes, officials said.

Despite the many lightning strikes that hit the ground on Saturday alone, the weekend thunderstorm brought little precipitation because the rain evaporated in hot, dry layers of the atmosphere before it hit the ground, Juskie said.

The lightning storm struck California when the state was experiencing one of its driest years on record. Earlier this month, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a statewide drought and directed agencies to speed up water deliveries to drought-stricken areas. Many communities are have adopted strict conservation measures.

From San Francisco to Los Angeles, cities have only seen a tiny fraction of the rainfall they normally receive in a typical year. In the Central Valley, the cities of Sacramento, Modesto, Stockton and Red Bluff have recorded their driest March-to-May periods since at least the 19th century, according to the weather service.

"A combination of lightning and very dry fuels will spark fires," said Mark Strobin, a weather service meteorologist in Monterey.

AP

Firefighter Jesse Campbell of the Sonoma Lake Fire Dept, hoses down hot spots on a hillside along Hwy 1 in Mt. Madonna County Park west of Gilroy, Calif., Monday, June 23, 2008. The Whitehurst Fire has burned over 200 acres in the Santa Cruz Mountains west of Gilroy.

ACROSS THE NATION

Florida teen loses arm in alligator attack

OKEECHOBEE, Fla. (AP)—A Florida teen who was attacked by an 11 1/2-foot alligator lost his arm, but managed to escape with his life after poking the animal in the eye. A sheriff's office report says Kasey Edwards was hanging out with friends beside a canal in Okeechobee (oh-kee-CHOH'-bee) County on Sunday when he decided to go swimming. Halfway through the swim, an alligator clamped down on his left arm. Edwards says he fought back by grabbing onto a buoy line and not letting go. He then poked the animal in the eye to get free. As Edwards began to swim away, he noticed that his left arm was missing. Friends pulled him to safety and he was taken to a hospital for treatment.

Ex-con found guilty of torturing NYC grad student

NEW YORK (AP)—An ex-convict was found guilty Tuesday in the rape and torture of a Columbia University graduate student who survived 19 hours of nightmarish sadism in which he scalded her with boiling water and attempted to blind her before trying to burn her to death. Robert Williams was convicted of attempted murder, rape, kidnapping, arson and other charges in the attack, which was so prolonged and agonizing that the victim begged her tormentor to kill her and later tried to kill herself. The verdict followed a gruesome trial that included dramatic testimony from the victim, who said the 31-year-old Williams made her swallow fistfuls of painkillers, ordered her to gouge out her eyes with scissors, sealed her lips with super glue and gagged her with duct tape before torching her apartment.

Key teen witness in sect case denies Texas' claims

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP)—A 16-year-old girl is a key witness in the state's effort to pursue criminal charges against members of her polygamist sect, even though she denies investigators' claims that she was abused. The girl, a daughter of the sect's jailed prophet, says she's never been married and doesn't have a baby. She denies church elders are influencing her and wants to fire her lawyer. The state can't even prove her alleged abuse happened in Texas. A court filing shows that the girl has been subpoenaed to appear before a grand jury Wednesday, the day the panel convenes in Schleicher County, home of a west Texas ranch run by the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Pregnant Mass. teen says there was no pact

GLOUCESTER, Mass. (AP)—One of the girls who became pregnant at Gloucester High School this year denied Tuesday there was any pact among them to have children, saying instead they decided to help each other make the best of their situations. Lindsey Oliver refuted the principal's claim that a sharp increase in teen pregnancies—17 compared to a typical four—was in part because several girls planned to get pregnant so they could raise their babies together. "There was definitely no pact," Oliver told "Good Morning America." "There was a group of girls already pregnant that decided they were going to help each other to finish school and raise their kids together. I think it was just a coincidence."

Fla. strikes $1.7B deal with Big Sugar

WELLINGTON, Fla. (AP)—In one of the biggest conservation deals in U.S. history, the nation's largest producer of cane sugar reached a tentative agreement Tuesday to get out of the business and sell its nearly 300 square miles in the Everglades to the state of Florida for $1.75 billion.

The deal with U.S. Sugar Corp. results from a convergence of interests: The state is trying to restore the Everglades and clean up pollution caused by Big Sugar and other growers, while the American sugar industry is being squeezed by low-price imports.

Republican Gov. Charlie Crist declared the agreement "as monumental as the creation of our nation's first national park, Yellowstone."

Under the deal, the state would buy U.S. Sugar's holdings in the Everglades south of Lake Okeechobee, including its cane fields, mill and railroad line. U.S. Sugar would be allowed to farm the 187,000 acres for six more years, after which it would go out of business.

The state would then protect the land from development, which has been encroaching on the Everglades for decades.

State officials would also build a network of reservoirs and marshes to filter water flowing into the Everglades and help restore the River of Grass to a cleaner, more natural state. For generations, farming and development have blocked the natural flow of water and allowed fertilizers and other pollutants to spill into the wetlands.

Negotiations are still going on, and officials hope to sign a final agreement by September.

Waterlogged levee under pressure from Mississippi

WINFIELD, Mo. (AP)—The weakest spot left along the swollen Mississipi River may be the Pin Oak levee, a barrier so tenuous that soil slides down its slope. Only National Guard soldiers and firefighters in life vests are allowed to stack sandbags, because volunteers and heavy equipment could sink. A single muskrat recently created a geyser of riverwater by digging into the berm.

But the earthen levee is all that's still protecting 100 houses, a city park, several businesses and 3,000 acres of agricultural land in east Winfield, one of the last towns where the upper Mississippi was expected to crest.

For days, emergency management officials in Lincoln County have focused on the 2 1/2-mile-long levee about 45 miles north of St. Louis. A storm with thunder and lightning Tuesday was only the latest impediment to the desperate attempts to shore up the Pin Oak.

"This storm is not a good thing," said Jeff Stamper, a structural engineer with the Army Corps of Engineers. "It pulled everyone off. You can work on a levee in the rain, but not in lightning."

While levees in the nearby communities of Elsberry and Old Monroe held strong, an urgent call went out this week for volunteers to fill up to 50,000 sandbags here.

The Mississippi was expected to finally crest at Winfield sometime late Tuesday, and to flow at its high-water mark—more than 11 feet above flood stage—for two more days. A disturbance as minor as a passing boat could lead to disaster.

"A 2-inch wake could be the difference between saving the levee and catastrophic failure," Binder said.

Asia

RP divers find bodies in capsized ferry

SAN FERNANDO, Philippines (AP)—A coast guard diver searching for survivors Tuesday inside a ferry that capsized in a typhoon found bodies and a bit of comfort—a plastic rosary floating in the water.

Lt. Cmdr. Inocencio Rosario slipped on the string of light blue beads for luck, and hoped that it was an omen that a miracle was still possible, that survivors would be found inside the hulking vessel.

Typhoon Fengshen toppled the seven-story ferry Saturday as it cut a deadly swath through the central Philippines. Only four dozen survivors have been found; more than 800 passengers and crew are missing.

With each passing day, the hope of finding them dimmed.

"I felt sad when I saw the bodies," Rosario said, still wearing the beads. "I can imagine what they went through."

Rosario, whose name translates as "rosary," didn't think there would be any survivors, but "I believe in miracles."

"I hope somebody there is alive," he said. "We have only probed about 15 percent of the ship."

About 30 divers were on hand, including some U.S. Navy frogmen who were expected to take turns searching the vessel Wednesday and help map the seabed. The ferry, about 500 yards off Sibuyan island, is lying on unstable coral.

Nearby villagers said a deep trench may be nearby, so there are concerns the vessel could slip and plunge deeper.

The storm's toll on shore includes 227 dead and 275 missing in the worst-hit region, with dozens reported killed elsewhere by floods and landslides. It caused an estimated $74.2 million in crop damage.

The roiling seas left in the storm's wake had kept rescue workers away from the ferry until calm, sunny conditions Tuesday allowed the divers to slip inside. Only the tip of the bow juts from the water.

The conditions were treacherous. Coast guard chief Vice Adm. Wilfredo Tamayo said the divers broke windows and used every other gap they could find to get inside the 23,824-ton Princess of the Stars.

Once inside, they found bodies in air pockets along with chairs, baggage, shoes and shards of broken glass. Iron bars, twisted by the sudden capsizing, jutted out here and there.

One body was dressed in a ship's officer uniform and was clutching a two-way radio, officials said.

Passengers could have survived initially—life jackets were on some bodies—and some may have suffocated as they waited for rescuers delayed by the storm, Philippine navy spokesman Lt. Col. Edgard Arevalo said.

"It seems the passengers hesitated from jumping in turbulent waters" because "it happened too sudden," Arevalo told dzBB radio, referring to survivors' accounts of the ship quickly listing and going down in a half-hour or less.

Myanmar says 84,500 died in cyclone

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar said Tuesday that 84,500 people perished in last month's cyclone, up from the last official announcement that 77,700 had died in the devastating storm.

Meanwhile, a representative from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the regional bloc that includes Myanmar, said a recent assessment tour found the needs of storm survivors were being met.

Deputy Foreign Minister Kyaw Thu said in a speech that the official death toll now stands at 84,537 dead, with 53,836 still missing. The update was the first since May 17, when officials said 77,738 had died and 55,917 were missing.

The increased total represents victims of the storm itself rather then any new casualties due to disease or starvation in the cyclone's aftermath, he said, stating that the assessment found no such post-cyclone deaths.

Cyclone Nargis cut a swath of destruction May 2-3 through the delta and the region around the country's largest city, Yangon.

Pandas evacuated from earthquake area

BEIJING (AP)—Pandas living in earthquake-hit southwest China are facing a food shortage and some have been evacuated to temporary shelters because of the threat of landslides and other hazards, an official said Tuesday.

Only seven pandas of the original 63 are left in the Wolong Nature Reserve deep in the lush mountains of Sichuan province, close to the epicenter of last month's magnitude-7.9 temblor, said Zhang Hemin, director of the Wolong Panda Breeding Center.

Their usual diet of bamboo is being supplemented by milk and biscuits because so much of the local bamboo was either damaged or destroyed by the quake, Zhang said.

Most of the other pandas have been moved or are en route to other habitats "because of the threat of possible geological disasters, including landslides," he said.

"We're trying to get them to safety," Zhang said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Thousands of peaches stolen from Japanese orchard

TOKYO (AP)—Thousands of peaches popular as good luck gifts for newlyweds have been stolen from an orchard near Tokyo, police said Tuesday. About 5,000 of the so-called "hanayome," or "bride" peaches, disappeared from an orchard overnight at Ubaguchi just west of Tokyo, said Masaki Kanemaru, a police spokesman in Yamanashi prefecture (state). It's believed a gang of thieves were involved in order to harvest so many in a short time. The bride peach is a special large variety that is also white inside, and is often presented to newly married couples. They have been known to retail in Japan for as much as US$820 (7,300 yen) each, depending on scarcity or time of year.

Japan police arrest man accused of killing family

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese police on Tuesday arrested a 77-year-old man suspected of killing his entire family with a hammer, including a 4-year-old granddaughter, a police official said. Police discovered the bodies after receiving a phone call from a man who reported killing his family, the official said. They rushed to the suspect's house in Kashiwa, east of Tokyo, and found the suspect, Yoshio Kiuchi, slumped on the floor and splattered with blood, the official said on condition of anonymity, citing department policy. They also found the bodies of Kiuchi's 4-year-old granddaughter, 75-year-old wife, 49-year-old son and 44-year-old daughter-in-law, he said. Public broadcaster NHK said police found a hammer at the house.

China 'quake lake' to be tourist spot

BEIJING (AP)—China plans to turn a huge lake formed from the Sichuan earthquake disaster into a tourist destination, a state news agency reported Tuesday. Scientists are assessing how to best develop Tangjiashan lake into a scenic spot, Chen Xingchun, secretary-general of the Communist Party Committee of Mianyang city, was quoted as saying by Xinhua News Agency. The government will also rebuild Beichuan county—just downstream from the newly formed lake—in a new location because the county seat was devastated by the temblor, Chen said. No decision has been made on where to rebuild.

World

Sadr City blast kills four Americans

BAGHDAD (AP)—A bomb exploded inside Sadr City's district council building Tuesday, killing 10 people, including four Americans working to restore local government and services in the former Shiite militia stronghold.

Iraqi officials said it appeared to be an inside job, and suspicion fell on the headquarters' Shiite guard force. The blast was the second deadly attack to strike Americans promoting municipal governments in as many days.

The attack comes as U.S. military and civilian officials step up efforts to take advantage of a sharp drop in violence to promote the local administration and restore services in Sadr City and other areas. Failure to do so could allow Sunni and Shiite extremists to regain a foothold, U.S. commanders believe.

The increased presence of the Americans in local communities has made them more vulnerable to attacks. But U.S. commanders believe that's key to a strategy that has helped drive down the levels of violence to the lowest point in more than four years.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice called Tuesday's bombing "a terrible reminder of the dangers that our colleagues face daily in advancing our critical foreign policy goals."

Two of the U.S. dead were soldiers, as was one of the wounded, the military said. U.S. Embassy spokeswoman Mirembe Nantongo said the dead American civilians included one State Department and one Defense Department employee.

Israeli cop kills self at Sarkozy ceremony

BEN-GURION AIRPORT, Israel (AP)—An Israeli police officer fatally shot himself in the head at an airport farewell ceremony Tuesday for French President Nicolas Sarkozy, prompting bodyguards to whisk the visiting leader and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to safety, officials said.

A military band was playing at the time of the shooting, and the dignitaries apparently didn't hear anything. Dark-suited security men quickly ushered Sarkozy and his wife, Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, up the stairs of his plane at Ben-Gurion Airport outside Tel Aviv.

Security guards, their guns drawn, also rushed Olmert and Israeli President Shimon Peres toward their cars. The incident was over within minutes, and Olmert then boarded the plane to tell Sarkozy what happened, witnesses said.

The policeman, who was on a roof about 100 yards from Sarkozy's plane, fell to the ground after shooting himself, and his sheet-covered body lay on the tarmac afterward.

AP

French President Nicolas Sarkozy, bottom right, and wife Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, top right, are rushed onto an airplane by security during a departure ceremony at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, Tuesday, June 24, 2008.

Rockets fired at Israel from Gaza shake truce

JERUSALEM (AP)—Palestinian militants fired three homemade rockets into southern Israel on Tuesday, threatening to unravel a cease-fire days after it began, and Israel responded by closing vital border crossings into Gaza.

Despite what it called a "gross violation" of the truce, Israel refrained from military action and said it would send an envoy soon to Egypt to work on the next stage of a broader cease-fire agreement: a prisoner swap that would bring home an Israeli soldier held by Hamas for more than two years.

Hamas, the militant Islamic group that rules Gaza, promised to rein in the Iran- and Syria-backed faction that carried out the rocket attacks and pledged to remain committed to the truce that went into effect June 19 and urged restraint by all sides.

The fact that the cease-fire held up despite the severe strain was an indication that both sides had a lot at stake in the negotiations for a broader agreement. Hamas wants to show it can break the Israeli blockade and provide much-needed relief to Gaza's beleaguered residents, while Israel wants to stop the daily rocket fire that has disrupted the lives of thousands of its citizens.

Mugabe refuses to bow to world pressure

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—President Robert Mugabe refused Tuesday to give into pressure from Africa and the West, saying the world can "shout as loud as they like" but he would not cancel this week's runoff election even though his opponent quit the race.

South Africa's ruling party issued a toughly worded statement calling on Mugabe's government to stop "riding roughshod" over the opposition headed by Morgan Tsvangirai, who quit the presidential contest and sought shelter in the Dutch Embassy.

The African National Congress also warned against international intervention following a report in the Times of London that Britain has drawn up contingency plans for deploying troops in Zimbabwe to resolve a humanitarian crisis and to evacuate British nationals and their dependents.

"A lasting solution has to be led by the Zimbabweans and any attempts by outside players to impose regime change will merely deepen the crisis," the ANC said.

It singled out Britain, the colonial power when Zimbabwe was still Rhodesia, saying it had not followed through on pledges to help fund efforts to put more land in the hands of black Zimbabweans. Britain has cited concerns about corruption.

Environment

See you at the beach!

CNMI Organization for Conservation Outreach

What are you most likely to find at the beach?

A.) monsters
B.) B.) sandcastles
C.) C.) lots of garbage

Litter or garbage is waste that is not properly disposed of. Litter comes in all shapes, sizes, and can be found anywhere. Litter could be: food wrapper tossed on the ground; paper dropped on a trail; drink cans left at a picnic site; cigarette butts flicked out of a car window; food wastes such as peels, apple cores, and yes, including betel nut.

Litter does not only ruin our beautiful beaches, it can also cause physical harm. A broken glass or sharp metals at the beach or along the pathway or neighborhood streets can hurt our families. Often times, tall sword grass (known as *sakati* in Chamorro; or *sakkati* in Carolinian) hide debris and not only do we find gum or other food wrapper, we also find sharp, heavy objects such as car parts or household items.

Marine debris is another way of labeling the trash that gets into the marine environment due to careless handling or disposal.

The two primary problems that marine debris poses to wildlife are entanglement and ingestion.

Entanglement results when an animal become encircled or ensnared by debris. Entanglement can occur accidentally, or when the animal is attracted to the debris as part of its normal behavior or out of curiosity. For example, an animal may try to use a piece of marine debris for shelter or as a plaything, or as a source of food

Entanglement is harmful to wildlife for several reasons. Not only can entanglement cause wounds that can lead to infections or loss of limbs, but it may also choke or strangle wildlife. In addition, entanglement can impair an animal's ability to swim, which can cause drowning or difficulty in moving, finding food, and escaping predators.

Ingestion occurs when an animal swallows marine debris. Ingestion sometimes happens accidentally, but generally animals feed on debris because it looks like food. Ingestion can lead to starvation or malnutrition if the ingested items block the intestinal tract and prevent digestion, or accumulate in the digestive tract and make the animal feel "full," lessening its desire to feed. Ingestion of sharp objects can damage the digestive tract or stomach lining and cause infection or pain. Ingested items may also block air passages and prevent breathing, which suffocates animals.

Marine mammals, turtles, birds, fish, and crustaceans all have been entangled in or have eaten marine debris. Many of the species most vulnerable to the problems of marine debris are endangered or threatened. Endangered species are plants or animals that are in immediate danger of becoming extinct because their population levels are so low. Threatened species are plants and animals that may become endangered in the near future.

Now that you know the dangers of littering, I want to remind you that it's also illegal. A person found to be littering can be fined $500. In addition to the fine, the person found guilty of littering may be ordered to remove litter in public places or pay for its removal out of their own pocket.

Here are some tips for going to the beach:

1) Reduce waste by bringing food in reusable containers instead of disposable containers.

2) Dispose of your garbage in proper receptacles.

3) Bring extra garbage bags – especially when the bins at picnic sites are already full.

4) Pack your trash. It's better to leave a beach cleaner than you arrived than adding to the unsightly

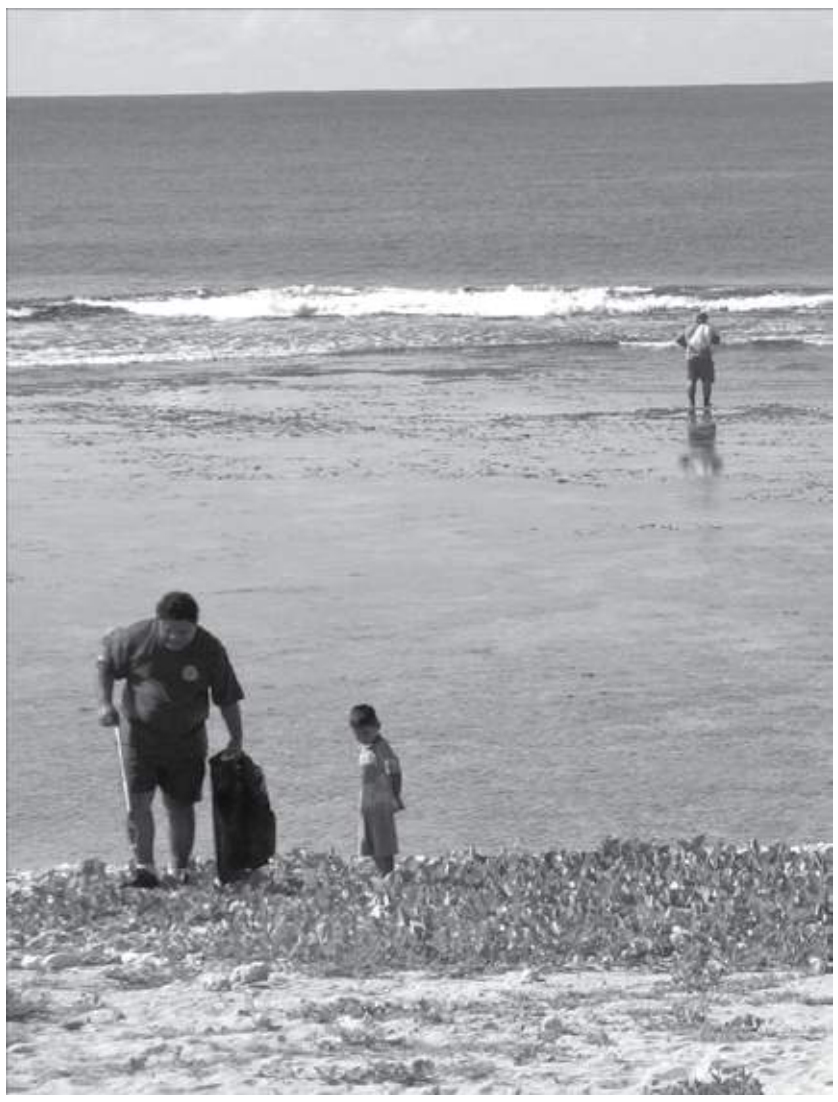
5) And my personal favorite: Volunteer! Several government and community-based organizations organize cleanups.

■ Beautify CNMI, 285- 6462, www.beautfycnmi.com

■ Coastal Resources Management, 664-8300, www.crm.gov.mp

■ Division of Environmental Quality, 664-8500, www.deq.gov.mp

■ Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, mina@minapacific.org



DEQ and Beautify CNMI hold monthly cleanups. Visit www.deq.gov.mp or www.beautifycnmi.com for more information. Above, Beautify CNMI Gus Kaipat, is picking up trash at Laulau beach.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM

Maps + Information = GIS

By LEOVITA QUITUGUA CABRERA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

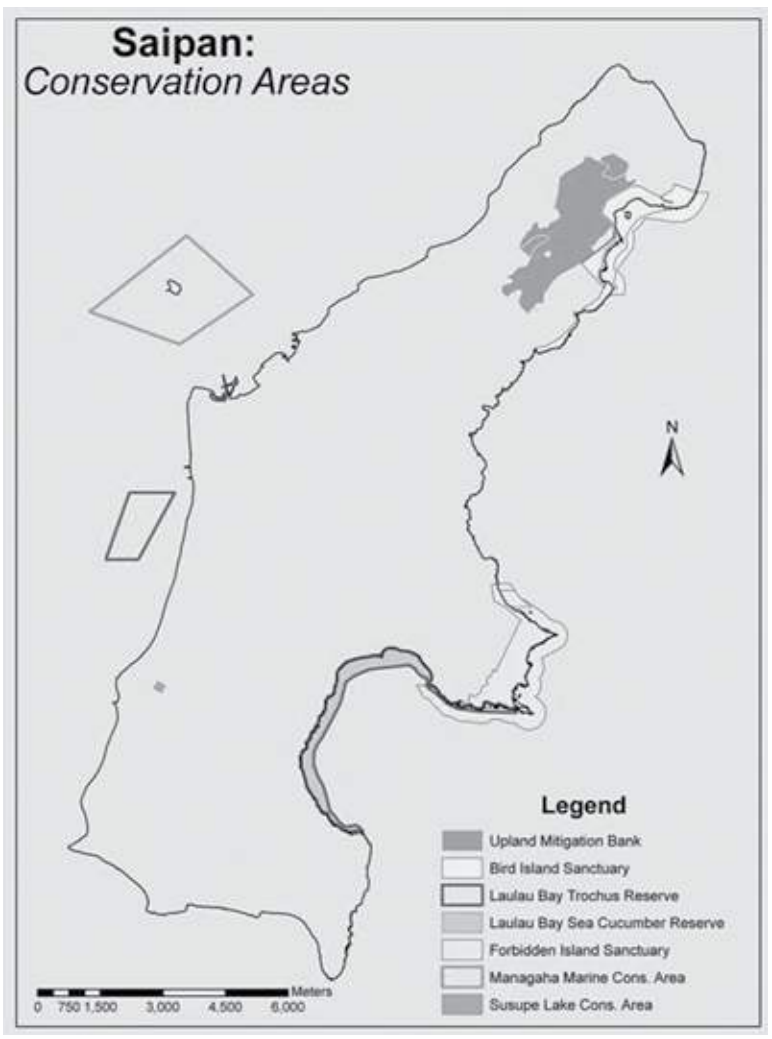
Hi, my name is Leovita Quitugua Cabrera and I am 17 years old. I am the Geographic Information System's intern at the Coastal Resources Management Office. You are probably scratching your head right now, huh? That's what I did at first, but with the right hardware, software and data, you can see really cool things like land cover, elevation, population density, bathymetry, satellite imagery and more.

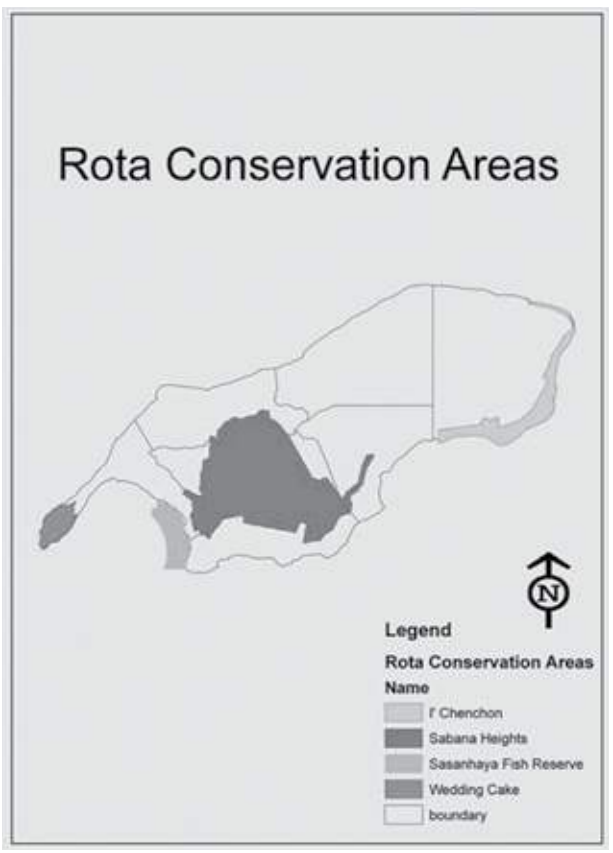
The two projects that I am assigned to this summer are to update the GIS catalog and to create a metadata template for the GIS data layers. Metadata is basically information about the data, who created it, the purpose and accuracy of information. These are all important information when sharing data. During my first week of work, I was introduced to the ARCGIS software. My mentor, Julie Ann Duenas, started me off with a book from ESRI titled, *Getting to Know ARCGIS*, which is a hands-on exercise. After completing the entire book, I was able to make my first map. It was a thematic map of all the conservation areas on Saipan. I was really excited!

My second week was even more exciting: I made four more maps, three based on Saipan and one on Rota. However, it's the little things I do like going out in the field or attending simple meetings that enable me to truly appreciate the importance of having and understanding GIS. I am very fortunate to have been given this opportunity. My working environment so far has been great. I've always wanted to be a part of something that would help protect our environment and look, here I am!

I am currently enrolled at the Northern Marianas College as an undergraduate student. My major is Liberal and Elementary Education. I also plan to pursue a degree in Natural Resource Management. However, I am growing fond of becoming an Environmental Science teacher, so who knows? Despite our economic problems, I would be honored to teach on Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Leovita Quitugua Cabrera goes out to the field with a Geographic Information System.





Life & Style

T-Pain, Keys rock BET Awards; West among winners

By SANDY COHEN
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—T-Pain transformed the BET Awards into a circus Tuesday with a multi-artist medley that showed the rapper and singer's wide-ranging influence on urban music, while best-selling rapper Lil Wayne and songstress Alicia Keys gave rousing performances of their own.

Wearing a spangled top hat, T-Pain—nominated for a leading five BET Awards—shared the stage with fellow nominees Flo Rida, Rick Ross, Ludacris and Big Boi, along with a bevy of big-top freaks, including fire eaters and acrobats.

"This industry is my circus," said T-Pain. "Ride with the ringleader."

Then T-Pain—whose nominations came not for his own hits but for his collaborations with others, and whose vocoder-assisted voice is among the most ubiquitous in urban music—gave a sample of his musical assists over the past year.

Double nominee Flo Rida performed his hit with T-Pain, "Low"; a bare-chested Ross flaunted his gut while singing his song with T-Pain, "Boss"; and all joined in on the collaborative "I'm So Hood."

Not to be outdone, the ladies offered a showstopping performance of their own, led by double nominee Keys. Rocking a sleek bob and skintight jeans, Keys invited vintage girl groups SWV, En Vogue and TLC to join her onstage for a medley of their biggest hits. By the time they closed with TLC's "Waterfalls," the crowd at the Shrine Auditorium was on its feet. Even Kanye West was singing along.

Lil Wayne, left, and T-Pain perform at the BET Awards on Tuesday June 24, 2008 in Los Angeles. AP

Viewers Choice award winner Lil Wayne was set to deliver the night's most anticipated performance, and he didn't disappoint. Joined by uber-collaborator T-Pain, who wore a t-shirt that read "T-Wayne," Lil Wayne delivered a medley of hits including "A Milli" and his No. 1 smash "Lollipop."

West, who won awards for best male hip-hop artist and best collaboration for his song with T-Pain, "Good Life," used his victories to praise both T-Pain and Lil Wayne.

"We're blessed to be in this man's presence," West said of T-Pain, whom he called "a genius." "I'll let y'all know because I'm one of the kings of this game. My opinion counts."

West called Lil Wayne "my fiercest competition." The New Orleans-based rapper last week sold 1 million copies of "Tha Carter III" for the year's best sales debut.

"You scared me man," West said. "Congratulations on selling over a million records. And they say hip hop is dead."

After tributes by Jill Scott and Maxwell, Lifetime Achievement Award winner Al Green delivered a smash performance of his own, hitting all the high notes on his hits "Let's Stay Together" and "Love and Happiness."

Diddy, Ludacris and the rest of the awards-show audience sang along as the 62-year-old Reverend Green shook his booty on stage.

"I'm sorry I didn't sing as well as I could. I got scared," a modest Green confessed backstage.

Queen Latifah introduced Humanitarian Award recipient Quincy Jones, calling him "an international artist, an innovator ... and a leader."

"He showed us black entertainment is more than just a hustle," she said. "It's more than just selling albums. It's about inspiration."

Jones said growing up on the south side of Chicago during the depression moved him to give back to people in need.

"My piece of bread only belongs to me if everybody has a piece to eat," he said.

Receiving the award "is one of the very treasured moments of my life," Jones said, "and I always hope to live up to this honor."

A somber moment came when UGK was named best group. Bun B honored his fallen bandmate, Pimp C, who died in December at age 33 from complications of sleep apnea.

"It's hard to do this with my brother not being here," Bun B said, while joined onstage with Pimp C's wife. "We want to thank y'all for supporting UGK all these years. It's still UGK for life... Long live Pimp C."

Usher opened the show pyrotechnics-filled performance as he sang "Love in this Club." The highly choreographed set, which featured Usher pop-locking, gyrating and grooving his way across the stage with a bevy of voluptuous dancers, gave the show a high-energy start.

Host D.L. Hughley's opening monologue was a little less explosive—his jokes about Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama, the recently acquitted R. Kelly and President Bush fell flat—but he didn't slow the pace of the performance-heavy show.

Key collaborations kept the show buzzing along.

Singer (and BET reality star) Keyshia Cole gave a glamorous performance of her ballad "Heaven Sent," descending from the ceiling while wearing a long flowing gown, before a dancer ripped it off, revealing a white top and shorts as she sang her hit "Let It Go" with Lil Kim.

West rapped alongside Young Jeezy in performance that was marked by its omissions—censors muted much of their performance. Chris Brown, who was seated next to rumored girlfriend Rihanna, won the night's first award: best male R&B artist. Brown was later joined onstage by Ciara for a sizzling performance that showed off each artist's dance skills, and a shirtless Nelly unveiled a new song with Fergie.

Kobe Bryant and Missy Elliott were early winners, but the best male athlete and female hip-hop artist weren't there to collect their awards, nor was the evening's best new artist winner, The-Dream.

Don Imus says he was making a 'sarcastic point'

NEW YORK (AP)—Don Imus, responding to criticism about racial remarks on his radio program, said on the air Tuesday he was trying to "make a sarcastic point" about unfair treatment of blacks in the criminal justice system but had been misunderstood.

Imus resurrected his radio career six months ago with a pledge to mend the wounds caused by a racist and sexist comment he made about a women's basketball team.

On Tuesday he said he was following the spirit of that promise by calling attention to the unfair treatment of blacks—in this case the arrests of suspended Dallas Cowboys cornerback Adam Jones.

"What people should be outraged about is that they arrest blacks for no reason," Imus said Tuesday. "I mean, there's no reason to arrest this kid six times. Maybe he did something once, but everyone does something once."

He called the flurry of criticism surrounding the comments "ridiculous" and said that his program's cast is now more diverse than ever—and includes a black producer and two black co-hosts, a man and a woman.

"How insane would I have to be? What would I be thinking?" Imus wondered aloud.

The latest comments by Imus to come under scrutiny were aired on Monday's broadcast. During a conversation about Jones' run-ins with the law,

Imus

Imus asked, "What color is he?" Sports announcer Warner Wolf said Jones—formerly known as Pacman—is "African-American." Imus responded: "There you go. Now we know."

The on-air exchange came months after Imus' return to work on a new show on WABC-AM following his firing from MSNBC and CBS Radio for calling the Rutgers University women's basketball team "nappy-headed hos."

When he returned to work, Imus gave a lengthy on-air apology and pledged to use his new show to foster an open dialogue on race relations.

Co-host Karith Foster, who is black, came to Imus' defense during Tuesday's broadcast, saying, "People who interpret what you said as racist clearly didn't hear the whole thing, and they don't know who you are and what the program is about—and they obviously haven't been listening."

Jones told The Dallas Morning News in Tuesday editions that he's upset by Imus' comments and plans to pray for the radio host.

"I'm truly upset about the comments," Jones said. "Obviously Mr. Imus has problems with African-Americans. I'm upset, and I hope the station he works for handles it accordingly. I will pray for him."

WABC and Citadel Broadcasting Corp. Vice President Phil Boyce said Monday that it was unlikely the broadcasters would take disciplinary action against Imus.

Monet painting fetches $80 million at London auction

LONDON (AP)—A water lily painting by impressionist master Claude Monet was sold for more than $80 million at auction Tuesday, kicking off a week of modern-art sales expected to reach records that defy the global economic downturn.

The painting "Le bassin aux nympheas," or "Water Lily Pond," was sold by Christie's for $80,451,178 including buyer's premium, making it the most expensive work of art ever sold by the auction house in Europe.

It was part of a four-work collection of water lily paintings that Monet put up for sale during his lifetime. He saw the oil paintings of his water garden as a cumulative work in progress, and rarely sold them.

The four large-scale paintings of Monet's water lily garden were signed and dated by the artist in 1919. One of the other paintings is at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, while another was sold at auction in 1992 for $12.1 million and is in a private collection. The final painting in the series was cut into two before World War II.

AP

An auction house worker poses for the photographer Thursday June 19, 2008, in front of Claude Monet's 'Le bassin aux nympheas' 1919 painting, ahead of an auction on June 24, at Christie's auction house in central London.

The sold Tuesday was purchased in a 1971 New York auction for $320,000. It has not been publicly exhibited since.

The bold brushstrokes in the painting are characteristic of Monet's later works, especially his "Grandes decorations," a 22-panel work of water lily paintings that was installed in Musee de l'Orangerie in Paris five months after Monet's death in 1926.

Monet created his water garden in Giverny, France by rerouting a river. He selected different hybrids of water lilies in an effort to get as many different colored flowers as possible, deliberately creating the garden as a motif for his paintings.

Tuesday's auction kicks off a week of major modern-art sales at Christie's and its rival Sotheby's, as the international market continues to set records despite global economic troubles.

The Christie's auction also features a rare pastel work by French impressionist Edgar Degas showing two ballet dancers. It is expected to fetch $8 million to $12 million.

‘Valkyrie’ portrait flap was mistaken photo ID

AP

This combination image shows, at left, an undated AP file photo of Claus Schenk Graf von Stauffenberg, and at right, a combination of 2 photos provided Tuesday, June 24, 2008 by United Artists showing von Stauffenberg and actor Tom Cruise.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—What looked at first like another PR blow to “Valkyrie,” the twice-delayed Tom Cruise film based on the true story of a German officer who plotted to assassinate Hitler, turned out to be a case of mistaken photo identity.

A report posted on Slate.com last week suggested that United Artists had doctored a portrait of Claus von Stauffenberg to make it more closely resemble the “Top Gun” actor. One problem: The two images scrutinized in the story, posted June 17 under the heading “Tom Cruise Mystery: The case of the doctored publicity photo,” didn’t come from the same source.

David Plotz, the editor of Slate, said after the Web magazine was contacted by The Associated Press that the conclusion of the article was wrong, and a correction was planned.

“We did not do the photo research that we should have done,” Plotz said Tuesday evening.

United Artists released its side-by-side publicity portraits last year to draw attention to the resemblance between the real von Stauffenberg and Cruise. In the black-and-white images, Cruise and von Stauffenberg are each in a similar profile pose, wearing similarly blank expressions.

Slate’s story, by contributor Kim Masters, compares the von Stauffenberg photo supplied by United Artists to an image from the photo archive of The Associated Press.

The posting includes commentary from two Slate designers and an overlay, created by a third designer, with the AP photo—lighter and bearing less resemblance to Cruise—atop the darker, more heavily contrasted image released by United Artists.

The report concludes that it “Looks like someone tweaked the photo. Finding out who may be mission: impossible.”

The AP determined that its archived photo of von Stauffenberg is not the same image released by United Artists. That photo can be found, among other places, in a Getty Images database, credited to the Hulton Archive and dated circa 1943.

“We did not check other archival sources to be sure there was not another version of the photograph,” Plotz said. “We don’t know where UA got the photograph, but it’s clear that in the Getty archive there’s a version of the photo which they used.”

United Artists said it acquired its version of the photo some time ago during research for the film, but could not be certain of its exact provenance, or how the studio came upon it.

“The picture United Artists used of Colonel Stauffenberg can be found all over the Internet,” said “Valkyrie” co-writer and producer Chris McQuarrie in a written statement released by a United Artists spokeswoman Tuesday.

McQuarrie, who won a screenplay Oscar in 1995 for “The Usual Suspects,” added that it would have been easier to “alter Tom Cruise” than to doctor “every available picture of Claus von Stauffenberg.”

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Get Smart

Fri and Sat 1:00 4:15 7:10 9:45
Sun - Thurs 1:00 4:15 7:10

Steve Carell, Anne Hathaway
Comedy, Adaptation • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Maxwell Smart is on a mission to thwart the latest plot for world domination by the evil crime syndicate known as KAOS. When the headquarters of U.S. spy agency Control is attacked and the identities of its agents compromised, the Chief has no choice but to promote his ever-eager analyst Maxwell Smart, who has always dreamt of working in the field alongside stalwart superstar Agent 23. Smart is partnered instead with the lovely-but-lethal veteran Agent 99. Given little field experience and even less time, Smart--armed with nothing but a few spy-tech gadgets and his unbridled enthusiasm—must thwart the doomsday plans of KAOS head Siegfried.

The Love Guru

Fri and Sat 1:30 4:25 7:15 10:00
Sun - Thurs 1:30 4:25 7:15

Mike Myers, Jessica Alba
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Guru Pitka was once an ordinary American child, until his family left him at the gates of an Indian ashram to be raised by the exhaulted Guru Tugginmypuddha. Growing up in the small fishing village of Harenmahkeester, Pitka was schooled in the inner secrets of spiritual attainment along with his friend and sole rival, Deepak Chopra. But now, Chopra is a massive celebrity in America, and Pitka is still playing second-fiddle without even an “Oprah” episode on his resume. Determined to share his unending insights into the nature of life and get famous to boot, Pitka responds to a fateful call for help from Jane Bullard, owner of the Toronto Maple Leafs hockey team.

★ ★ ★

Incredible Hulk

Fri and Sat 1:25 4:00 7:00 9:55
Sun - Thurs 1:25 4:00 7:00

Edward Norton, Liv Tyler
Action, Adaptation • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

In this new beginning, scientist Bruce Banner desperately hunts for a cure to the gamma radiation that poisoned his cells and unleashes the unbridled force of rage within him: The Hulk. Living in the shadows—cut off from a life he knew and the woman he loves, Betty Ross—Banner struggles to avoid the obsessive pursuit of his nemesis, General Thunderbolt Ross, and the military machinery that seeks to capture him and brutally exploit his power. As all three grapple with the secrets that led to The Hulk’s creation, they are confronted with a monstrous new adversary known as The Abomination, whose destructive strength exceeds even The Hulk’s own.

The Happening

Fri and Sat 1:10 4:30 7:20 9:35
Sun - Thurs 1:10 4:30 7:20

Mark Wahlberg, John Leguizamo
Action, Thriller • Rated R

The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian

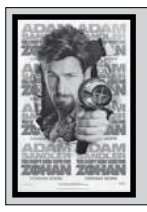
Fri and Sat 1:15 4:10 7:05 9:50
Sun - Thurs 1:15 4:10 7:05

Peter Dinklage, Liam Neeson
Adventure, Fantasy • Rated PG

Kung Fu Panda

Fri and Sat 1:05 4:20 7:30 9:30
Sun - Thurs 1:05 4:20 7:30

Jack Black (v), Dustin Hoffman (v)
Comedy, Action, Animation • Rated PG



You Don’t Mess with the Zohan

Fri and Sat 1:20 4:05 7:25 9:40
Sun - Thurs 1:20 4:05 7:25

Adam Sandler, Rob Schneider
Action, Comedy • Rated PG-13

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Italian accused of cashing in on fake Vatican ties

NEW YORK (AP)—An Italian businessman who once dated actress Anne Hathaway was arrested Tuesday on charges he posed as a representative of the Vatican to fleece wealthy investors in a real estate company that sought to buy and redevelop Roman Catholic Church property.

Bail was set at $21 million for Raffaello Follieri. Federal prosecutors said they have “overwhelming” evidence that he improperly spent up to $6 million from investors, much of it on a lavish lifestyle, including privately chartered jet travel with his girlfriend and others, expensive meals and clothing and a posh Manhattan apartment.

The girlfriend was not identified but it has been widely reported that Hathaway, the star of films including “Get Smart,” “The Devil Wears Prada” and “The Princess Diaries,” had until recently dated Follieri, 29.

AP

In this Feb. 3, 2008 file photo, Raffaello Follieri is seen at the Miss Sixty 2008 Fall Collection during Fashion Week in New York.

An angry Follieri repeatedly interrupted his lawyer at a court appearance to tell her what to say. He shook his head at times and, as a prosecutor accused him of owing various debts, called out: “We paid that.”

Prosecutor Reed Michael Brodsky said Follieri, of Foggia, Italy, boasted of tight Vatican connections to entice investors to give millions of dollars so he could “live the lifestyle of a multimillionaire.” He said Follieri had duped one investor as recently as last month.

“In short, your honor, he is a con man, and he was able to defraud a lot of people out of a lot of money over a long period of time,” Brodsky told Magistrate Judge Henry B. Pitman. “The evidence in this case is overwhelming because he left a trail of evidence.”

Brodsky had asked Pitman to deny bail, saying Follieri had the money, the connections and the incentive to flee charges that could send him to prison for up to nine years if he is convicted. He said Follieri lost between $2.5 million and $6 million of investor money.

Pitman said Follieri must secure bail with $16 million in cash or property and must endure home detention, except for legal meetings, medical treatment or religious services.

India’s Reliance talking with DreamWorks

MUMBAI, India (AP)—India’s Reliance Entertainment and other investors are in talks with Hollywood’s DreamWorks SKG to raise up to $2 billion to create a movie venture, two people familiar with negotiations said Tuesday.

DreamWorks, the movie studio founded in 1994 by Hollywood moguls Steven Spielberg, David Geffen and Jeffrey Katzenberg, is looking to raise a total of $2 billion from investors—$1 billion in equity and another $1 billion for new movie projects, the two people with knowledge of the talks told The Associated Press. They said they could not be named because negotiations were ongoing.

There are four to five other parties involved in the talks, including Universal Pictures, one of the individuals said. It will be some time before the deal is signed, he said, without elaborating.

Reliance Entertainment—part of one of India’s top conglomerates, Reliance ADA Group—plans to invest more than $500 million in equity, that same person said. The Wall Street Journal reported last week that Reliance was considering an investment of about that size in a deal with DreamWorks.

DreamWorks and General Electric Co. subsidiary NBC Universal, which owns Universal Pictures, had no immediate comment when contacted Tuesday by The Associated Press.

The Los Angeles Times reported last week that DreamWorks was in talks with investors to raise about $1 billion to break from Viacom Inc. and Viacom’s movie studio, Paramount Pictures, and become an independent studio again.

Viacom bought DreamWorks SKG in 2006 for $1.6 billion, but the relationship has declined despite hits such as “Transformers” and “Dreamgirls.” Viacom CEO Philippe Dauman said last year his company was planning for Spielberg’s possible departure following reports that the Academy Award-winning director was unhappy at Paramount.

Britney, Kevin in LA court

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears and a parenting coach were questioned Tuesday by the court commissioner overseeing the singer's custody dispute, resulting in an unspecified change in visitation status.

Spears and ex-husband Kevin Federline appeared before Commissioner Scott Gordon, who took the one-hour proceeding behind closed doors.

Court spokesman Allan Parachini stressed afterward that the answers given by Spears and parenting coach Lisa Hacker were not considered testimony.

Spears

Spears' behavior was "very businesslike," Parachini said.

The 26-year-old pop princess, wearing a white short-sleeve top and capri pants with pockets down the sides, left court without comment. Federline, in a gray suit, also did not comment as he left.

Months of bizarre behavior by Spears culminated early this year with two hospitalizations. Federline was given full custody of their two little boys, Sean Preston and Jayden James, and Spears' visitation rights were suspended.

But Spears has appeared stable recently, and her visitation rights have been gradually restored. She remains under the conservatorship of her father, James Spears, and her estate is under the conservatorship of her father and an attorney.

A status conference in the custody case is set for July 15.

Locklear seeks treatment for anxiety, depression

NEW YORK (AP)—Heather Locklear is seeking treatment for anxiety and depression. "Heather has been dealing with anxiety and depression," publicist Sarah Fuller said Tuesday in a statement.

"She requested an in-depth evaluation of her medication and entered into a medical facility for proper diagnosis and treatment. This is a confidential medical matter and no further statement will be released."

People magazine's Web site reported Tuesday that the 46-year-old actress checked into a facility in Arizona.

Locklear's divorce from Bon Jovi guitarist Richie Sambora was finalized in April 2007. They have a daughter, Ava Elizabeth. Locklear is reportedly dating former "Melrose Place" co-star Jack Wagner.

Locklear's TV credits include "T.J. Hooker," "Dynasty" and "Spin City," and her film roles include "The Perfect Man" and "Uptown Girls."

AP

Heather Locklear poses at the world premiere of the film "Hannah Montana & Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert" in Los Angeles, on Jan. 17, 2008.

India.Arie is set to make her Broadway debut

NEW YORK (AP)—India.Arie on Broadway—produced by Whoopi Goldberg. The Grammy-winning singer will make her Broadway debut in a revival of Ntozake Shange's "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf."

India.Arie

She will open in the play Sept. 8 at Circle in the Square.

Preview performances begin Aug. 19 in what will be a revised and updated version of the play, which was an off-Broadway hit for the Public Theater in 1976 before transferring to Broadway for a run of more than 700 performances.

The new production will be directed by Shirley Jo Finney and choreographed by Hinton Battle, a three-time Tony winner.

"For Colored Girls...," a prose-poem portrait of black women in America, originally featured Shange and Trazana Beverley, who won a Tony for her performance.

Goldberg has been involved in productions of "Thoroughly Modern Millie," her own "Whoopi ... The 20th Anniversary" and a revival of August Wilson's "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom."

New book coming from 'Marley & Me' author

NEW YORK (AP)—"Marley & Me" author John Grogan is working on a prequel to the million-selling memoir about his dog.

"The Longest Trip Home" will be released in October by William Morrow, an imprint of HarperCollins, the publisher said in a statement Tuesday.

"It is the powerful, often hilarious story of a son in the making, and of growing up in a loving, but comically old-school Catholic family," said the statement issued by Morrow. "From his troublemaking childhood to his courtship of a fiery blonde named Jenny, Grogan writes about how he came to terms with who he is and what he believes."

"Even before `Marley & Me' was published, I knew this was the story I wanted to tell next," Grogan, 51, said in a statement. "`The Longest Trip Home' is a story very close to my heart."

A film version of "Marley & Me," starring Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston, is slated for release in December.

AP

In this Jan.6, 2006 file photo shows John Grogan, author of the best selling memoir "Marley & Me," poses with his new dog, Gracie, at home in Emmaus, Pa.

D.L. Hughley on Obama: 'He's like a tall Urkel dude'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—If Barack Obama ever planned to show up to Tuesday's BET Awards, he'd have done well to prepare for a roasting by host D.L. Hughley.

"He does look like the dude from 'Mad' magazine," Hughley joked of the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee in an interview with AP Television. "It's so funny because he ain't a cool dude to me. He's like a tall Urkel dude (the bespectacled nerd from the '90s sitcom 'Family Matters'). But for the first black president, I'll take him. ... Like, how bad a president is George Bush, when the country goes, 'You know, we'll try the black guy'?"

Obama's competitors are also possible targets for the 44-year-old actor-comedian, who recently starred on TV's "Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip."

"I dug Hillary (Clinton) and I dug him," Hughley said. "I didn't have to not like her so I could like him, and not like him so I could like her."

Hughley didn't reserve his barbs for just the Democrats.

"And then you've got John McCain. And it's so funny, because you've got a guy who's half-black running against a guy who's half-dead."

The BET Awards, which recognize the best in black entertainment in 15 categories, will be broadcast live from the Shrine Auditorium.

Third husband is no charmer when he puts down his wife

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I was divorced twice before I met my present husband, "Lou." We have been married seven years. When we're with his extended family or new acquaintances, Lou makes a point in his loud, animated way of letting everyone know that he is my third husband. It's embarrassing. And because I am at a loss for words, I usually stay silent.

I have asked Lou in private why he offers that information when no one asks. I think he's trying to make me look bad. I told him maybe he should have a "3" tattooed on his forehead if he's that proud.

If someone pays me a compliment in his presence, Lou will say, "She really has you fooled!" But, Abby, Lou is the one who has everyone fooled. If his family knew the things he has said and done over the last seven years, they would be shocked.

Early on, his first wife stopped going anywhere with him. I have reached the point where I have begun trying to avoid going out with him. How should I respond -- if at all -- when he tries to make me look bad? Perhaps I should just say, "Yes, you are No. 3. But when you talk about me like that, it makes me wish you weren't."

OBJECT OF RIDICULE

DEAR OBJECT: If you haven't already done it, tell your husband privately that you don't appreciate being embarrassed in front of family and friends. Tell him that you want it stopped immediately. Your husband appears to be insecure and trying to make himself look better at your expense. If he persists, the next time it happens, smile sweetly and say, "And I'd like you all to meet my soon-to-be third EX-husband." (Come to think about it, that might not be a bad idea.)

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am 38 years young and still single. I enjoy my friends, my freedom and rock concerts. My issue is that at the last two concerts I went to, I heard men -- or boys -- say, "Watch out. Here come the cougars!" I think this is insulting. Or is it?

Can you define a "cougar"? I don't know whether I should be insulted or take it as a compliment.

STILL ROCKIN' IN IRVINE

DEAR STILL ROCKIN': A "cougar" is a woman who likes to date -- and aggressively pursue -- much younger men. Whether it's an insult, an accurate description or a compliment depends upon how you wish to be perceived. But from my perspective, the comments you heard were stereotypical and "catty," to say the least.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a young man who is having some trouble working for "the man" -- you know, the corporate culture. I have always worked for large companies, but have found that my current employer is not open to accepting new ideas or suggestions.

I feel I'm hitting a brick wall when I look at a problem and come up with a solution, but no one will take me seriously because of my youth. Any advice on how to deal with this?

EAGER IN CUMBERLAND, MD.

DEAR EAGER: When someone is hired by a company with a strong corporate culture, that person is usually expected to conform and not shake up the status quo. I can think of few things more depressing than going every day to a job where you do not feel your input is valued. Feeling as you do, you might be wise to explore opportunities at another company -- or even a field -- that is more youth-oriented.

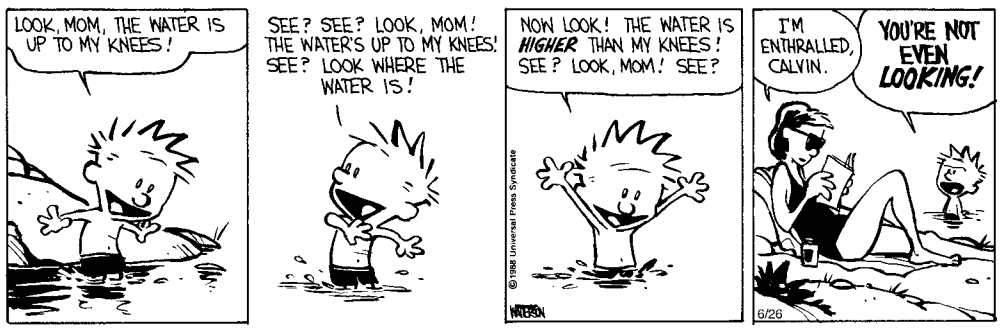
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


LOOK, MOM, THE WATER IS UP TO MY KNEES!
SEE? SEE? LOOK, MOM! THE WATER'S UP TO MY KNEES! SEE? LOOK WHERE THE WATER IS!
NOW LOOK! THE WATER IS HIGHER THAN MY KNEES! SEE? LOOK, MOM! SEE?
I'M ENTHRALLED, CALVIN.
YOU'RE NOT EVEN LOOKING!
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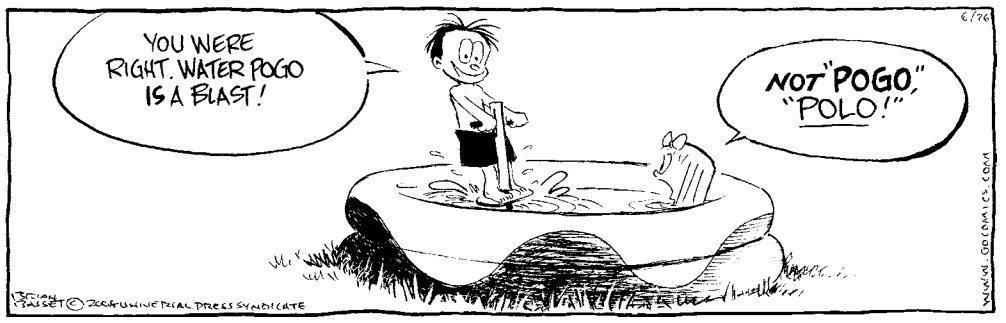
WATERSON
6/26

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Cream of the crop
5 Supermarket supply
9 Ovine comment
12 Lotion additive
13 Chills and fever
14 Performance
15 Spanish city
17 Plato's P
18 Country song?
19 Clan emblem
21 Stylish
22 Actor Rathbone
24 Infant
27 Scott Joplin's genre
28 Author Uris
31 "Born in the —"
32 Raw rock
33 Pair
34 Lass
36 Signs off on
37 Rose feature
38 Smiles broadly
40 Lindbergh book
41 Run the meeting
43 Necktie
47 Cover
48 Lionel or Drew
51 Commotion
52 Hodgepodge
53 "Desire Under the —"
54 "Certainly"
55 Freeway exit
56 Egg container?

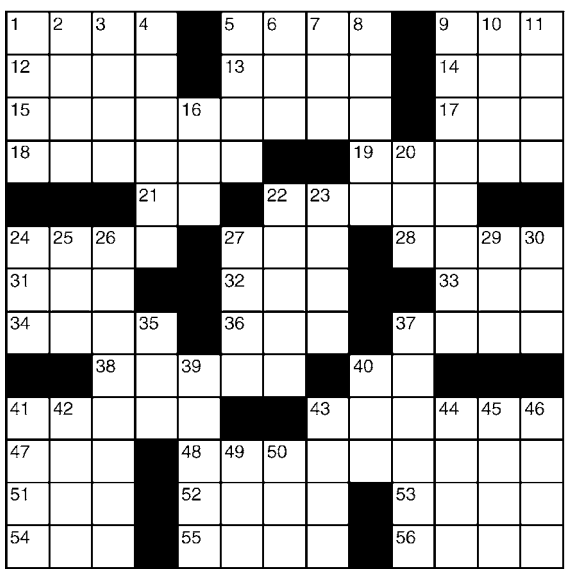
DOWN

1 Ali —
2 Verve
3 Type
4 Computer pro
5 Soother
6 Past
7 Pistol
8 Movie-house furniture
9 "Familiar Quotations" man
10 Rue the run
11 Fermi's particle
16 Still, in verse
20 Tin Man's need
22 Kennel sounds
23 Census stats
24 Annoy
25 "— was saying, ..."
26 Bridgetown's island
27 Leeway
29 Have bills
30 — de plume
35 Islander's adornment
37 Tars
39 Viny shelter
40 Distorted
41 Sculptor's medium
42 Conceal
43 Cut short
44 Meadow mouse
45 Weaponry
46 Criterion
49 Carte lead-in
50 Edge

Solution time: 25 mins.

C	L	I	P	■	B	U	Y	■	S	P	A	S
A	I	D	A	■	U	S	E	■	C	R	O	P
P	R	O	P	O	S	A	L	■	H	O	N	E
S	A	L	A	D	S	■	L	O	O	P	E	D
■	■	■	L	O	T	■	S	H	O	O	■	■
C	O	P	■	R	O	E	■	S	L	U	M	S
B	U	R	P	■	P	E	P	■	S	N	A	P
S	T	O	I	C	■	L	A	C	■	D	R	Y
■	■	P	L	O	D	■	L	A	O	■	■	■
I	D	E	A	T	E	■	O	R	C	H	I	D
M	A	R	T	■	P	R	O	P	H	E	S	Y
A	N	T	E	■	O	A	K	■	E	R	I	N
M	A	Y	S	■	T	W	A	■	R	O	S	E

Yesterday's answer 6-26



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jason Schwartzman, 28; Sean Hayes, 38; Chris O'Donnell, 38; Harriet Wheeler, 45

Happy Birthday: Mistakes will be hard to avoid if you act in haste. Be careful how you handle others this year. Slow down, observe what others do and be sure to get the facts straight before launching your thoughts. Caution is your best friend this year. Your numbers are 5, 9, 22, 26, 37, 40

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You can blow up easily today and, although you may win whatever war you wage initially, in the end you will suffer loss and regret. Before taking on something that could alter your life forever, reflect on the consequences. This is not a good time to let emotions rule such important decisions. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Getting together with someone special will help to promote an even better relationship. Let others know how you feel and what your intentions are. Honesty will pave the way to a long lasting, caring friendship. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Bide your time and let others make decisions first. Once you see where everyone else stands, you can make the right choice for yourself. A chance to make some alterations at home will keep you occupied and out of trouble. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Wasting time will be your downfall. This is not the time to make last-minute alterations or to try to bully your way in or out of something. Take a position and stick to it. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't worry about what anyone else does; just stick to your own game plan and you will end up successful. Do whatever it takes to turn your idea into a reality. Rumors and gossip will be a waste of time and will lead to trouble. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't slow down. Communication will lead to information to help you form a partnership with someone who complements your attributes. Expand your horizons socially, professionally and personally. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't give in to emotional blackmail or to anyone pushing you. Be true to your beliefs and desires and you will maintain a happy and healthy balance. Sometimes you have to let go of something or someone to make positive changes. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Give whatever you do your all. The more pressure you put on those you expect to deliver, the better equipped you will be to reach your goals. It's your reputation on the line, so make things go your way. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Personal, domestic, residential or financial change must be made cautiously and only after discussing your plans with the people your decisions will affect. Once you have everyone's blessing, you can move quickly. It's your explanation that will make the difference. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't make a move without consulting someone important to you who may or may not like your course of action. Overdoing, overindulging and over-spending will all lead to trouble in partnerships. Don't give in to bullying. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You'll have a tremendous idea you must follow through on. It will help to raise your income or give you other means to make money. Being more environmentally friendly will help you in more ways than you think. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): If you can't be honest about your feelings, expect to be faced with questions you don't want to answer. Try to be loving, accommodating and open about how you see things unfolding. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are emotional, persistent and eager to go the distance to get what you want. You have great stamina, are serious, set in your ways and like to be precise in all that you do.

Eugenia's Web sites: **astroadvice.com** *for fun,* **eugenialast.com** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

2	8				6			1
	1			5		7	8	4
	9							
6								
	7			3			1	
								2
							5	
9	3	5		6			4	
4			1				3	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	8	3	7	1	9	6	2	5
9	5	1	6	8	2	3	4	7
7	2	6	4	3	5	9	1	8
8	3	9	1	2	6	5	7	4
6	7	2	3	5	4	1	8	9
1	4	5	9	7	8	2	6	3
5	9	8	2	4	1	7	3	6
2	6	7	8	9	3	4	5	1
3	1	4	5	6	7	8	9	2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/25

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

OMAHA HOLD'EM **Solution: 5 letters**

T	E	S	N	S	G	S	C	I	T	C	A	T	W	C
B	S	R	S	D	N	O	M	A	I	D	R	A	O	B
E	U	E	S	D	I	S	E	C	U	E	D	M	B	D
T	O	K	H	O	N	O	S	E	P	O	B	U	N	T
T	H	R	O	G	N	U	S	X	U	I	L	U	I	N
I	C	A	W	I	I	I	E	B	N	L	O	M	A	E
N	H	M	S	T	W	H	L	A	E	R	I	B	R	N
G	E	A	E	K	(D)	E	T	T	E	L	L	A	R	O
S	C	D	C	(R)	L	I	S	V	S	U	N	E	P	P
P	K	O	(A)	B	O	S	E	E	I	K	V	E	O	P
O	L	(C)	A	N	E	A	F	N	A	I	N	K	L	O
C	L	T	A	D	L	S	P	I	R	T	E	P	A	D
K	A	F	A	J	H	S	U	L	F	R	O	L	Y	N
E	M	P	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	T	Y	U	O	A
T	S	R	E	K	C	I	K	O	S	E	L	U	R	H

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Betting, Board, Bullets, Card, Casino, Check, Clockwise, Combination, Community, Deuces, Diamonds, Double, Expert, Flush, Hand, Highest, Hole, House, Jacks, Kicker, Limit, Markers, Odds, Online, Open, Opponent, Pocket, Poker, Pots, Rainbow, Raise, Rank, Reveal, River, Round, Royal, Rules, Show, Small, Spades, Suited, Table, Tactics, Tour, Trips, Turn, Winning

Yesterday's Answer: Tips

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• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

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All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	**$13.00**
2nd position	**$5.00**
Succeeding positions	**$2.00**

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for $.25 per copy.

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

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Davenport hobbles into 2nd round at Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—With Wimbledon devolving into a fashion contest, former champion Lindsay Davenport's retro getup may have trumped all other outfits.

Her sleeveless white top and pleated skirt were very 1980s, and the wrap on her right leg—with bandages extending from mid-thigh to mid-calf—looked like something out of the British Museum.

Playing her first match at Wimbledon since 2005, Davenport whacked enough winners to compensate for a sore knee Tuesday, and she hobbled past Renata Voracova 6-3, 5-7, 6-3.

Moving more comfortably into the second round were Maria Sharapova and her new all-white, tuxedo-style outfit, which prompted 13 fashion-related questions at her postmatch news conference. Other winners in straight sets included defending champion Venus Williams, Rafael Nadal and Andy Roddick on a second successive mild, dry day at the All England Club.

While photographers focused on Sharapova's ensemble, and Roddick poked fun at Roger Federer's opening-day sweater, Davenport resorted to tactics that had her winning ugly. Back on the women's tour after a hiatus to have her first child, the 1999 Wimbledon champion showed she still possesses the grass-court game to beat anyone—even on one leg.

"I wouldn't come here if I didn't think I would do really well," Davenport said.

Idle for two months after sitting out the clay-court season, Davenport feared rust would be a problem in the opening round. But she was troubled more by a sore knee that has bothered her in recent weeks.

AP

Lindsay Davenport of the US., returns to Renata Voracova of the Czech Republic, during their Women's Singles, first round match, at Wimbledon, Tuesday, June 24, 2008.

Playing on Court 2—the "Graveyard of Champions"—Davenport held a match point in the 10th game of the second set but failed to convert it. Before the final set began, she required treatment from a trainer, who probed and stretched her knee, then sprayed and wrapped her right thigh. During a changeover three games later, more tape was applied to the knee.

"Some days it feels OK, and other days it is a problem," Davenport said. "In the latter stages of the second set, I definitely felt like it was getting worse. I didn't feel great in the third."

Limited mobility wasn't really a problem, however, because Davenport has compensated for that her whole career. She went for a big shot at every opportunity, eager to end points quickly, and often did by swatting a winner.

"I actually felt like I started hitting the ball a little bit better because I felt like I needed to do more with it," Davenport said.

She had help: Voracova double-faulted to fall behind 5-3 in the final set. Davenport lost the first point of the next game, then ripped an ace, a service winner, another ace and another service winner for the victory. She looked to the sky in relief and limped off the court, but an hour later she sounded optimistic about her chance of moving deep into the draw.

Seeded only 25th, Davenport proudly noted she hasn't lost before the quarterfinals at Wimbledon since 1997.

"I've had some of my greatest memories here," she said. "What started off as a Grand Slam that I probably liked the least definitely turned into one I liked the most in the latter part of my career."

She's still a youngster compared to 36-year-old Jonas Bjorkman, whose 15th Wimbledon ended with a four-set defeat against Arnaud Clement. Bjorkman plans to retire in October.

Another veteran, No. 4-seeded Nikolay Davydenko, lost to Benjamin Becker 6-4, 6-4, 6-4, but it was hardly an upset. The opening-round defeat was Davydenko's fifth at Wimbledon in seven years.

Afterward the Russian again addressed an investigation into heavy wagering on a match he lost last August at an obscure tournament in Poland. He has repeatedly denied wrongdoing.

"Nobody can prove anything," Davydenko said. "I think there's no match-fixing in tennis."

Nadal began his bid to end Federer's five-year reign by beating qualifier Andreas Beck 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (0). Nadal, runner-up to Federer the past two years, is coming off his fourth consecutive French Open championship and a win at Queen's for his first grass-court title.

Three U.S. males reached the second round: Roddick, James Blake and Jesse Levine, who beat fellow American Donald Young. Mardy Fish of the United States lost to No. 8-seeded Richard Gasquet 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

Roddick never faced a break point and defeated Eduardo Schwank 7-5, 6-4, 7-6 (0). He then weighed in on this week's fashion buzz, which started with the cardigan Federer wore Monday onto Centre Court.

"I personally don't care," Roddick said. "But any attention drawn to tennis for whatever reason is good. If that means wearing the Mr. Rogers sweater, whatever else you got, then so be it. I don't know if it would be a good look for me or any of my friends. Or relatives."

Sharapova wore a belted tuxedo warmup jacket onto Court 1, along with a sheer bib-style blouse and—for the first time at a Grand Slam event—shorts. Of secondary interest: She beat qualifier Stephanie Foretz 6-1, 6-4.

"To be able to perform in that, with it being so thin, so mobile, it's really cool," Sharapova said.

The day's most exciting tennis may have occurred in the first set played on Centre Court. The normally serene atmosphere became lively when four-time champion Williams fell behind 2-0 and 3-1 against Naomi Cavaday, an Englishwoman who needed a wild card to make the draw.

Sensing a possible upset, the partisan crowd began cheering shots by the Brit even before points ended. The applause proved premature as Williams rallied to win 7-6 (5), 6-1.

Along with avoiding an embarrassing loss, Williams managed to dodge a bee that bothered her in the opening game.

"I was about to serve. I felt something on my leg. I looked down. It was a bee, a big old bumblebee," Williams said. "I was trying to get it off without getting stung. You know how they usually fly back at you. Then I ended up losing that service game, so I guess the bumblebee got me off to a bad start."

Police: Walker went 'willingly' with Vegas robbers

LAS VEGAS (AP)—One man was arrested and a second was sought Tuesday in a robbery and beating that left Oakland Raiders receiver Javon Walker unconscious on a side street after a long night of partying at Las Vegas nightclubs.

Police said Arfat Fadel, of Las Vegas, was accused of multiple felonies, including kidnapping, robbery, battery and conspiracy in a June 16 robbery. Lt. Clinton Nichols said Walker lost about $3,000 in cash and $100,000 worth of jewelry in the robbery.

The loot has not been recovered, he said.

"Mr. Walker was in town to have a good time, as many of our visitors to Las Vegas do," Nichols said. "As he will readily admit, he probably had a little too much to drink and he did not pick up on the clues that Mr. Fadel was someone he probably should not have been with."

Police released a booking photo of the 30-year-old Fadel and a black-and-white surveillance videotape image of the other alleged assailant who they said they believed was still in Las Vegas.

"The suspects knew who Mr. Walker was. He did not know who they were," Nichols said. "Whether they were part of his entourage or not remains to be seen."

Nichols said Walker got out of one vehicle he was riding in with friends and got into Fadels's black Range Rover with Fadel and the other man before he was assaulted and robbed.

"He willingly got in the vehicle on his own," Nichols said of the 6-foot-3, 215-pound Walker. "We're unsure why."

Nichols said during a news conference the two men were seen in some of the crowded nightclubs where Walker was shown on surveillance videotapes partying from about 9 p.m. June 15, until shortly before he was found unconscious at 7:19 a.m. the next morning about a block east of the Las Vegas Strip.

Police said Walker was hospitalized for treatment of a moderate concussion and significant facial injuries.

Walker was released by the Broncos last February and was signed by the Oakland Raiders to a six-year, $55 million deal.

The team declined comment. Walker's agent, Kennard McGuire of Richmond, Texas, did not immediately respond to messages.

Fadel was booked on the Walker case while he was being held at the Clark County jail on unrelated kidnapping and battery domestic violence charges after an arrest Friday, jail records show.

He was due in a Las Vegas court Wednesday morning. It was not immediately clear if he was represented by a lawyer, and police Sgt. John Loretto said Fadel refused interview requests.

Nichols said Fadel had a record that included "a variety of criminal charges" in California, New York, Michigan and Nevada. He did not specify the charges.

Walker "assumed these people were friendly or responsible," Nichols said, "and unfortunately, they turned out not to be."

Records show Fadel pleaded guilty in April in Las Vegas to malicious destruction of property, a gross misdemeanor, and was given a suspended six-month jail sentence. Fadel also promised to pay $579.44 in restitution, move to New York and provide proof of employment there, court records show

Fadel's lawyer in that case, Osvaldo Fumo, declined comment Tuesday. He said he had not been hired to represent Fadel in the Walker case.

Walker, a former first-round 2001 draft pick by the Green Bay Packers, was traded to the Denver Broncos in 2006. On New Year's Day 2007, Broncos teammate Darrent Williams died in Walker's arms in the back of a limousine after a drive-by shooting in downtown Denver.

Walker later said then-teammate Brandon Marshall and his cousin exchanged angry words with two men who confronted Williams and his group after taking offense when Marshall sprayed them with champagne.

Recently retired Strahan joins Fox pregame show

NEW YORK (AP)—Within minutes of his introduction as the newest member of Fox's NFL pregame show, Michael Strahan was spouting his opinion on Plaxico Burress' contract dispute, debating the issue with Jimmy Johnson, and trading barbs with Terry Bradshaw about their respective divorces.

Fox executives David Hill and Ed Goren leaned back in their chairs and grinned during Tuesday's news conference. That's the sort of personality and chemistry they hope the recently retired New York Giants defensive end will bring to the show.

Known for his charisma and candor as a player, Strahan insisted he won't be afraid to criticize former teammates or friends within the league.

"I look at it as I'm on this team now," he said. "I have to speak objectively and tell the truth of what I see, regardless of if I was in the locker room last season or not, if those guys are my friends or not."

Another former Giant who moved to TV, Tiki Barber, riled his ex-teammates last year with critical comments he made while working for his new employer, NBC.

"I think my situation, my personality, I'm different than Tiki," Strahan said. "If I were to say something, I'm just going to tell the truth. For me, I think a lot of people expected that.

"I think for Tiki, it was a little bit out of his comfort level, what people expected of him."

Strahan joins a profession whose members he didn't always have the rosiest relationship with as a player. He would stop talking to reporters or bristle at sports talk radio comments.

Strahan said he had no problem with criticism unless it was personal or malicious. And if a player turned down his interview request?

"If somebody does that, then fine, that's their prerogative," Strahan said. "I've been there. I understand that."

Hill and Goren said that until Strahan retired, no player had come along who made them want to expand their core group of analysts in Bradshaw, Johnson and Howie Long. Strahan said he had offers from other networks but felt most comfortable at Fox, with which he had worked before.

The 36-year-old Strahan made seven Pro Bowls in his 15 NFL seasons and had the fifth most sacks in league history. His final game ended in a Super Bowl victory in February.

By hiring Strahan, Fox adds a younger commentator whose career fans are sure to remember.

"Definitely that youthful factor, just coming off the field, may attract certain people to watch the show, to tune in," Strahan said. "I think that was definitely one of the things they were going after."

He then got in a friendly jab at his new colleagues: "I'm a lot younger than these guys, a whole lot younger than these guys, a lot better looking, too."

Varitek leads Boston in comeback win over Arizona

BOSTON (AP)—Jason Varitek capped a four-run eighth inning with a go-ahead single, and the Boston Red Sox rallied past the Arizona Diamondbacks 5-4 in interleague play on Tuesday.

Varitek's big hit scored Mike Lowell, who tied the score with a two-out, two-run double off Chad Qualls (1-6). Varitek was 1-for-30 before that at-bat, dropping his average to .227.

Arizona led 4-1 going into the bottom of the eighth behind the pitching of Doug Davis and the hitting of Chad Tracy, who had an RBI single and a three-run homer.

AP

Boston Red Sox's Jason Varitek runs to first on his go-ahead RBI single against the Arizona Diamondbacks in the eighth inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston Tuesday, June 24, 2008.

Rays 6, Marlins 4

At Miami, Dioner Navarro and Eric Hinske drew bases-loaded walks in the eighth inning, Evan Longoria hit a two-run double in the ninth and Tampa Bay beat Florida.

Akinori Iwamura had three hits for the Rays, including his fifth home run. Troy Percival walked four Marlins in the ninth but still managed his 18th save in 20th chances and No. 342 of his career, moving him past Rollie Fingers for ninth place in MLB history.

Florida starter Scott Olsen allowed two runs and four hits in seven innings but lef without a win for the ninth straight time dating to May 6.

Tigers 8, Cardinals 4

At Detroit, Brian Barton, Skip Schumaker and Brendan Ryan each drove in two runs to lead St. Louis.

Cardinals starter Braden Looper (9-5) gave up four runs on three homers in six-plus innings.

In his first game off the disabled list, Gary Sheffield hit a two-run shot to left field in the seventh inning to pull the Tigers within four runs and chase Looper.

Pirates 12, Yankees 5

At Pittsburgh, Jose Bautista and Ryan Doumit homered and Pittsburgh turned back the clock nearly a half-century, beating New York for the first time since the 1960 World Series.

The Pirates had been the only team in the majors to not beat the Yankees in a regular-season game.

Hall of Famer Bill Mazeroski threw out the ceremonial first pitch to commemorate his memorable home run that beat the Yankees in 1960, still the only homer to end a World Series Game 7, and the Pirates took it from there by opening a 7-1 lead by the fifth. They finished with 19 hits, nine for extra bases.

Darrell Rasner (4-5) gave up seven runs in five innings.

Giants 3, Indians 2

At Cleveland, Jonathan Sanchez won for the fifth time in six starts and Omar Vizquel dropped down a suicide squeeze against his former team in the first game between the clubs here since the 1954 World Series.

Sanchez (7-4) allowed five hits, stuck out eight and improved to 4-0 on the road since May 28.

Vizquel, the 11-time Gold Glove winner, spent 11 seasons with the Indians and was honored before the game. He went 0-for-3, but smartly placed a bunt down to score Rich Aurilia to make it 3-1 in the ninth.

Blue Jays 14, Reds 1

At Toronto, Scott Rolen hit one of Toronto's three homers and A.J. Burnett pitched eight strong innings for Toronto against Cincinnati.

Alex Rios and Gregg Zaun also connected for the Blue Jays, who battered Bronson Arroyo (4-7) for 10 runs in an inning-plus. Rios and Marco Scutaro each had four hits as Toronto set season highs for runs and hits (22).

Angels 8, Nationals 3

At Washington, Mike Napoli hit a run-scoring double in a six-run first inning and added a two-run homer, and Los Angeles took advantage of four Washington errors.

The Angels have won five straight games and the Nationals have lost seven of eight.

The Angels' Vladimir Guerrero extended his hitting streak to 15 games with a first-inning single, but left after two innings with flu-like symptoms.

Wily Mo Pena and Elijah Dukes had solo home runs for the Nationals.

Mariners 11, Mets 0

At New York, Raul Ibanez homered and drove in three runs, knuckleballer R.A. Dickey tossed seven sharp innings and Seattle blew out frustrated New York.

Richie Sexson had three RBIs and Kenji Johjima hit a two-run shot for Seattle, which took advantage of a shaky Oliver Perez (5-5) to boost its AL-worst road record to 13-25. The Mariners also improved to 7-1 all-time against the Mets.

Orioles 7, Cubs 5

At Chicago, Brian Roberts had three hits against the team that was interested in acquiring him and Baltimore ended Chicago's 14-game home winning streak in their first visit to Wrigley Field.

Orioles closer George Sherrill struck out Ronny Cedeno, Kosuke Fukudome and Henry Blanco to escape a no-out, bases-loaded jam in the bottom of the ninth to get his 26th save.

Jeremy Guthrie (4-7) allowed only four hits and a run over the first six innings as the Orioles took a 7-1 lead.

Jim Edmonds hit a three-run homer for the Cubs.

Royals 7, Rockies 3

At Kansas City, Missouri, Zack Greinke matched a career high with 10 strikeouts and Alex Gordon hit a two-run homer as Kansas City won its fourth straight.

The Royals 11-3 record is the best in interleague play.

Greinke (7-4) scattered nine hits and walking none in six innings. In his past three starts, Greinke has allowed four earned runs and 14 hits in 20 innings, while striking out 22.

White Sox 6, Dodgers 1

At Los Angeles, Mark Buehrle pitched eight solid innings, Jermaine Dye hit a two-run homer, and Chicago snapped a nine-game road losing streak.

Nick Swisher hit a bases-loaded sacrifice fly in the first inning, Orlando Cabrera singled home a run in the second and that was all Buehrle (5-6) needed. The left-hander allowed a run and six hits.

Delmon Young hit his first homer of the season for the Dodgers.

Astros 4, Rangers 3

At Houston, Lance Berkman hit a two-run homer to lead Houston, and Jose Valverde hung on for the save.

Ramon Vazquez hit a two-run homer with one out in the ninth inning to make it 4-3, but Valverde struck out Chris Shelton and Ian Kinsler for his 19th save.

Brewers 4, Braves 3

At Atlanta, Dave Bush earned his first road victory of the season, scattering four hits over seven innings, and the Milwaukee Brewers held on in the ninth to beat the Atlanta Braves.

The Brewers are 18-21 on the road with four straight wins, including two in a row over the Braves. They had to survive a ninth-inning scare when closer Solomon Torres conceded Mark Teixeira's two-run homer and almost blew a 4-1 lead and left the tying run on third base.

Bush (4-7) walked one and gave up one run for his first road victory since August and the Brewers (43-34) are a season-high nine games over .500.

The Braves committed four errors, including three to allow two unearned runs in the first.

Braves rookie Charlie Morton (1-1) allowed seven hits and four runs, two earned, in six innings. Morton started despite battling a high temperature and other flulike symptoms, manager Bobby Cox said before the game.

Tiger has knee surgery; doctor says 'no surprises'

Tiger Woods had reconstructive surgery on his left knee Tuesday in Utah to repair a torn ligament, and doctors said it was "highly unlikely" there would be any long-term effects. It was the second time in 10 weeks Woods had surgery on his knee, this time on his anterior cruciate ligament.

"We were confident going into this surgery, and I am pleased with the results," Dr. Thomas D. Rosenberg said in a statement released by IMG, Woods' management company.

"There were no surprises during the procedure, and as we have said, with the proper rehabilitation and training, it is highly unlikely that Mr. Woods will have any long-term effects as it relates to his career."

The surgery came one week after Woods went 91 holes at Torrey Pines to win the U.S. Open in a playoff over Rocco Mediate, revealing later that he also had a double stress fracture in his left tibia.

The surgery, performed by Rosenberg and Dr. Vernon J. Cooley in Park City, was the fourth time Woods has had surgery on his left knee. He had a benign tumor removed in 1994, and he had benign cysts removed in 2002, along with fluid around the ACL.

Woods said he tore his ACL while jogging last year after the British Open, but tried to make it through the end of this season without surgery. Two days after his runner-up finish at the Masters, he had surgery to clean out cartilage in his left knee.

The world's No. 1 player announced last week that he would miss the rest of the season, which includes two more major championships and the Ryder Cup.

"It was important to me to have the surgery as soon as possible so that I could begin the rehabilitation process," Woods said in a statement. "I am very appreciative of Dr. Rosenberg and Dr. Cooley and his staff's guidance and look forward to working with them through the necessary rehabilitation and training.

"I look forward to working hard at my rehabilitation over the coming months and returning to the PGA Tour healthy next year."

He did not say when he would start his rehab or any timetable for his return.

Shaq booted from sheriff's 'posse' for Kobe rap

PHOENIX (AP)—Shaquille O'Neal will lose his special deputy's badge in Maricopa County because of language he used in a rap video that mocks former teammate Kobe Bryant.

Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio said the Phoenix Suns center's use of a racially derogatory word and other foul language left him no choice. Arpaio made Shaq a special deputy in 2006 and promoted him to colonel of his largely ceremonial posse later that year.

"I want his two badges back," Arpaio told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "Because if any one of my deputies did something like this, they're fired. I don't condone this type of racial conduct."

Shaq was seen in a video posted on the celebrity news and gossip Web site TMZ.com rapping that "Kobe couldn't do without me." O'Neal skewers the Lakers' star, with whom he won three straight NBA titles from 2000-2002 while with Los Angeles, for not being able to win a championship without him.

"I was freestyling. That's all. It was all done in fun. Nothing serious whatsoever," O'Neal told ESPN.com Monday. A call to the Suns on Tuesday seeking comment from O'Neal was referred to his public relations firm, which didn't immediately respond.

Arpaio, who describes himself as "America's Toughest Sheriff" and is best known for feeding jail inmates green bologna, clothing them in pink underwear, and making them work on chain gangs, said he didn't expect his actions would teach Shaq a lesson. But he hoped he learns that as a role model who wants to someday be a full-time sheriff, he needs to know his words matter.

"Maybe I'm old fashioned, but I don't think that either conduct should be out there publicly, even if media wasn't there," Arpaio said.

O'Neal previously served as a reserve officer with the Miami Beach Police Department while playing for the Miami Heat. He also volunteered with the Tempe Police Department after being traded to the Suns in February.

New record for returning Jenequa

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

MARK RABAGO
CNMI discus record holder Jeneque Benavente, left, poses with the old record holder Dolores Rangamar.

When Jenequa Benavente recently moved back to Saipan from Hawaii, athletics more so setting a new national record probably was the farthest thing from her mind.

But lo and behold, after a little over a month of training under Northern Marianas Athletics developmental coach Elias Rangamar, the 16-year-old Marianas High School student is now the proud owner of the CNMI discus throw record.

This happened last Monday when Benavente shattered the 31.69m mark held by Rangamar's own wife, Dolores, which she set during her gold medal-run in the 2002 Pohnpei Micronesian Games.

The new standard is now 34.38m, which Benavente posted in her very first throw in the 2008 Oceania Grand Prix competition.

A beaming Benavente said she is quite happy about her achievement during an interview with the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday at the Cross Country venue in Kagman.

"I'm just thankful for all the coaching I've been getting. I actually just started training for the Oceania Championships only a little over a month ago, but I did some discus when I was studying in Hawaii," said Benevante.

Dolores, for her part, said she is proud of Benevante's achievement and added that she is happy that the future of CNMI athletics is in great hands.

Benavente is not done yet, as she hopes to add more records to her name when she competes in all field events—except the javelin—in the 2008 Oceania Championships, which full schedule kicks off today at the Oleai Track and Field.

SAMOA'S

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down [terrain]," said Nagel, who will also take part in the 800m race.

Teammate Daniel Trevis took silver with a time of 11:30 followed by Norfolk Island's Jackie Gatland, 12:06, for the bronze. The CNMI's Reylyn Sapong came in sixth, clocking in at 15:50.

Salome Dell gave Papua New Guinea the gold medal in the women's open 3-km Cross Country, finishing in a time of 11:08. Guam athletes took silver and bronze with Marie Benito and Nicole Layson negotiating the course in 12:20 and 12:31, respectively.

The men's under-18, meanwhile, saw Solomon Islands' Gregory Foasilafu take the gold after reaching the finish line in 10:16. Guam again finished 2-3 with Christopher Magtoto winning the silver (10:20) and Jeofry Limtiaco the bronze (10:54).

The CNMI's Oshima Mamiko and Matthew Mancao nearly bagged the bronze medals in the women's open and men's under-18 with times of 12:55 and 11:29, respectively. Champ Untalan came in sixth in the men's under-18 (12:02).

With the results of the Cross Country in, New Zealand is on top of the early medal standings with a gold and a silver medal to their name. Samoa, Solomon Islands, and PNG are tied a second with a gold each, while Guam is in solo third with two silver and two bronze medals. Australia (one silver), Vanuatu (one bronze), and Norfolk Island (one bronze) account for nations that have won medals so far.

2008

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meeting Tuesday.

Gardner also took time to congratulate the CNMI for what is shaping up to be a memorable 2008 Oceania Championships.

"I'm very pleased to report that we are extremely impressed with the effort, enthusiasm, and professionalism of the CNMI athletics association (Northern Marianas Athletics) in putting together this event. They have come ahead by leaps and bounds and it's a tremendous credit to them."

He also tipped his hat to NMA officials Robin Sapong and Elias Rangamar and organizing committee chairman Rep. Ramon Tebuteb for a job well done in hosting the Championships.

Tebuteb also had his time on the podium and reflected on the value of sports and competition among the people of Oceania.

"It is within the spirit of positive gamemanship that bounds our people in our regions. It is our ambassadorial pillars. Once such pillar is the IAAF and part of that is our OAA. We all should be proud of our athletics family. It is the primal sports of all-time. Our foundations are our athletes, sponsors, technical officials, and our volunteers," he said.

The 2008 Oceania Championships' competition kicks off today with 47 events lined up beginning at 1pm at the Oleai Track and Field.

YOUNG

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mental squad. For all of these guys, it's actually their first international experience so it's really been very good. We have a good group of kids and it's a lovely place for them to go to," she said.

Kiwi head coach Ed Fern, for his part, noted that despite the absence of New Zealand's "A-Team," he still expects the black and white to put on a good performance in the Championships.

"We are very strong in the field events and we have some very good sprinters and distance runners. We have a thrower (William Hubber) who is extremely good. The kids that we brought [to Saipan] are of very high caliber in New Zealand," he said.

Fern sounds optimistic about his under-18 team's chances in the Championships, but when asked if he has a medal count in mind for his team, he said he doesn't believe in prognosticating.

He, however, is happy that his kids got a lot of experience in the 2008 Oceania Grand Prix and are expected to learn more about the ropes of international competition in the 2008 Oceania Championships.

"All of these kids are in high school. We have another competition later this year, the Commonwealth Youth Games, and that goes up to 19. So our top kids that are just older than who we have here will be going to that and there will be a few from this age group as well, who are a little bit of a higher level," said Fern.

Merelisse and Fern said, so far, they and their athletes have enjoyed their five-day stay on Saipan. They specially like the food catered to them by the organizers.

"We're extremely happy about the food here. The variety of food that they serve us at the catered meals—three or four different kids of meat—are just absolutely fabulous. It's amazing and it's lovely. Everything is great," they said.

Aside from a brief excursion to DFS Galleria Tuesday, the team mostly has been holed up at the Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel. Fern said they do plan to rent vans after the competition on Sunday "and bum around all day long."

Coming from a country made famous by snow-capped mountains, you would think the Kiwis would find Saipan's oppressive heat and humidity too much, but Merelisse and Fern said it's not been an issue at all.

"I guess [it would affect] us the most because our country is probably the coolest of the countries that come here. But we haven't really suffered that much," said Fern.

The rest of the New Zealand under-18 team are Alex Jordan, Corey Casey, Daniel Fake, Joel Armstrong, John Kendall, Michael Cochrane, Nick Gerard, Rory Hoffmans, William Hubber, Emily Kinsler, Kathryn Kennedy, Kelsey Berryman, Kimberly Burke, Kirsten Hurley, Livvy Wilson, Rachel Peeters, and Tamara Antis.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	48	32	.600	–
Tampa Bay	45	31	.592	1
New York	41	36	.532	5 1/2
Baltimore	39	36	.520	6 1/2
Toronto	37	41	.474	10

Central Division

Chicago	42	34	.553	–
Minnesota	41	36	.532	1 1/2
Detroit	36	40	.474	6
Cleveland	35	42	.455	7 1/2
Kansas City	35	43	.449	8

West Division

Los Angeles	48	30	.615	–
Oakland	42	34	.553	5
Texas	39	39	.500	9
Seattle	28	49	.364	19 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	42	36	.538	–
Florida	40	36	.526	1
New York	37	39	.487	4
Atlanta	38	41	.481	4 1/2
Washington	30	49	.380	12 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	48	29	.623	–
St. Louis	45	33	.577	3 1/2
Milwaukee	43	34	.558	5
Pittsburgh	37	40	.481	11
Houston	36	41	.468	12
Cincinnati	35	43	.449	13 1/2

West Division

Arizona	40	38	.513	–
Los Angeles	35	41	.461	4
San Francisco	33	44	.429	6 1/2
Colorado	32	46	.410	8
San Diego	32	46	.410	8

Yesterday's Games

Boston 5, Arizona 4
Pittsburgh 12, N.Y. Yankees 5
St. Louis 8, Detroit 4
San Francisco 3, Cleveland 2
Toronto 14, Cincinnati 1
Seattle 11, N.Y. Mets 0
Tampa Bay 6, Florida 4
Milwaukee 4, Atlanta 3
L.A. Angels 8, Washington 3
Houston 4, Texas 3
Baltimore 7, Chicago Cubs 5
Kansas City 7, Colorado 3
Minnesota 3, San Diego 1
Oakland 5, Philadelphia 2
Chicago White Sox 6, L.A. Dodgers 1

2008 OCEANIA CHAMPIONSHIPS SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE

6am	Men's 6km Run Cross Country Open	Finals
6:30am	Men's 3km Run Cross Country Under-18	Finals
6:30am	Women's 3km Run Cross Country Under-18	Finals
6:30am	Women 3km Run Cross Country Open	Finals

THURSDAY 26 JUNE

1pm	Women's Shot Put Open	Finals
1:10pm	Heptathlon: Women's 100m Hurdles U 18	Finals
1:10pm	Heptathlon: Women's 100m Hurdles Open	Finals
1:30pm	Men's Discus U 18	Finals
1:30pm	Octathlon: Men 100m Sprint U 18	Finals
1:35pm	Octathlon: Men 100m Sprint Open	Finals
1:45pm	Heptathlon: Women's High Jump U 18	Finals
1:45pm	Heptathlon: Women's High Jump Open	Finals
1:55pm	Women's 400m Sprint U 18	Heats
2:05pm	Men's 400m Sprint U 18	Heats
2:10pm	Octathlon: Men's Long Jump U 18	Finals
2:10pm	Octathlon: Men's Long Jump Open	Finals
2:15pm	Men's 400m Sprint Open	Heats
2:15pm	Men's Shot Put Open	Finals
2:30pm	Women's 100 Metre Sprint Open	Heats
2:50pm	Men's 100 Metre Sprint Open	Heats
3:00pm	Women's Javelin U 18	Finals
3:20pm	Women's 100 Metre Hurdles U 18	Finals
3:30pm	Women's High Jump U 18	Finals
3:30pm	Heptathlon: Women's Shot Put U 18	Finals
3:30pm	Heptathlon: Women's Shot Put Open	Finals
3:35pm	Men's 110m Hurdles U 18	Finals
4:00pm	Men's 100m Sprint Open	Semis
4:00pm	Women's Triple Jump Open	Finals
4:15pm	Octathlon: Men's Shot Put U 18	Finals
4:15pm	Octathlon: Men's Shot Put Open	Finals
4:30pm	Men's Javelin Open	Finals
4:30pm	Men's 3000m Run U 18	Finals
4:30pm	Women's 3000m Run U 18	Finals
5:00pm	Heptathlon: Women's 200m Sprint U18	Finals
5:10pm	Heptathlon: Women's 200m Sprint Open	Finals
5:30pm	Men's High Jump Open	Finals
5:40pm	Women's Shot Put U 18	Finals
5:45pm	Octathlon: Men's 400m Sprint U 18	Finals
5:50pm	Octathlon: Men's 400m Sprint Open	Finals
6:00pm	Women's 100m Sprint Open	Finals
6:05pm	Men's 100m Sprint Open	Finals
6:10pm	Women's 5000m Run Open	Finals
6:10pm	Men's 5000m Run Open	Finals
6:30pm	Women's Javelin Open	Finals
7:00pm	Mixed Distance Medley U 18	Heats
7:10pm	Mixed Distance Medley Open	Heats
7:20pm	Men's 4x100m Relay U 18	Finals
7:30pm	Women's 4x100m Relay U 18	Finals
7:35pm	Men's 4x100m Relay Open	Heats

FRIDAY 27 JUNE

11am	Men's Hammer Open	Finals
11:45am	Men's Hammer U 18	Finals
12:30pm	Women's Hammer Open	Finals
1pm	Men's Triple Jump U 18	Finals
1pm	Men's 400m Hurdles Open	Heats
1:15pm	Men's 400m Hurdles U 18	Finals
1:30pm	Women's 400m Hurdles U 18	Finals
1:40pm	Octathlon: Men's 110m Hurdles U18	Finals
1:50pm	Octathlon: Men's 110m Hurdles Open	Finals
2:15pm	Women's Long Jump Open	Finals
2:15pm	Women's 400m Sprint Open	Finals
2:25pm	Men's 400m Sprint Open	Finals
2:30pm	Octathlon: Men's High Jump U 18	Finals
2:30pm	Octathlon: Men's High Jump Open	Finals
2:45pm	Women's 200m Sprint U 18	Heats
3pm	Men's 200m Sprint U 18	Heats
3:30pm	Heptathlon: Women's Long Jump U 18	Finals
3:30pm	Heptathlon: Women's Long Jump Open	Finals
4pm	Men's 3000m Steeplechase Open	Finals
4:25pm	Women's 200m Sprint U 18	Finals
4:30pm	Women's Long Jump U 18	Finals
4:30pm	Heptathlon: Women's Javelin U 18	Finals
4:30pm	Heptathlon: Women's Javelin Open	Finals
4:30pm	Men's High Jump U 18	Finals
4:35pm	Men's 200m Sprint U 18	Finals
4:45pm	Women's 800m Run U 18	Finals
4:55pm	Men's 800m Run U 18	Finals
5:05pm	Women's 800m Run Open	Finals
5:15pm	Men's 800m Run Open	Finals
5:15pm	Octathlon: Men's Javelin U 18	Finals
5:15pm	Octathlon: Men's Javelin Open	Finals
5:30pm	Heptathlon: Women's 800m Run Unde	Finals
5:30pm	Heptathlon Women's 800m Run Open	Finals
5:45pm	Women's Discus U 18	Finals
5:45pm	Men's Long Jump Open	Finals
5:50pm	Women's 100m Hurdles Open	Finals
6pm	Men's 110m Hurdles Open	Finals
6:15pm	Octathlon: Men's 1000m Run U 18	Finals
6:15pm	Octathlon: Men's 1000m Run Open	Finals
6:30pm	Mixed Distance Medley U 18	Finals
6:45pm	Mixed Distance Medley Open	Finals

SATURDAY 28 JUNE (MORNING SESSION)

5:30am	Women's Half Marathon Open	Finals
5:30am	Men's Half Marathon Open	Finals

SATURDAY 28 JUNE (AFTERNOON SESSION)

12:15pm	Women's Hammer U 18	Finals
1pm	Women's 200m Sprint Open	Heats
1pm	Men's Long Jump U 18	Finals
1:20pm	Men's 200m Sprint Open	Heats
1:30pm	Men's Shot Put U 18	Finals
1:30pm	Men's Discus Open	Finals
1:45pm	Women's 400m Hurdles Open	Finals
1:50pm	Men's Triple Jump Open	Finals
2:00pm	Men's 400m Hurdles Open	Finals
2:15pm	Women's 100m Sprint U 18	Heats
2:30pm	Men's 100m Sprint U 18	Heats
2:45pm	Women's Discus Open	Finals
2:50pm	Women's 200m Sprint Open	Finals
3:00pm	Women's Triple Jump U 18	Finals
3:00pm	Men's 200m Sprint Open	Finals
3:10pm	Women's 400m Sprint U 18	Finals
3:20pm	Men's 400m Sprint U 18	Finals
3:30pm	Women's High Jump Open	Finals
3:30pm	Women's 1500m Run U 18	Finals
3:40pm	Men's 1500m Run U 18	Finals
3:50pm	Women's 1500m Run Open	Finals
4:00pm	Men's Javelin U 18	Finals
4:00pm	Men's 1500m Run Open	Finals
4:15pm	Women's 100m Sprint U 18	Finals
4:25pm	Men's 100m Sprint U 18	Finals
4:45pm	Women's 4x100m Relay Open	Finals
4:55pm	Men's 4x100m Relay Open	Finals

2008 Oceania Championships Cross Country

The start of the women's open and men's and women's under-18 3-km Cross Country.

MARK RABAGO

DAN KIMBALL

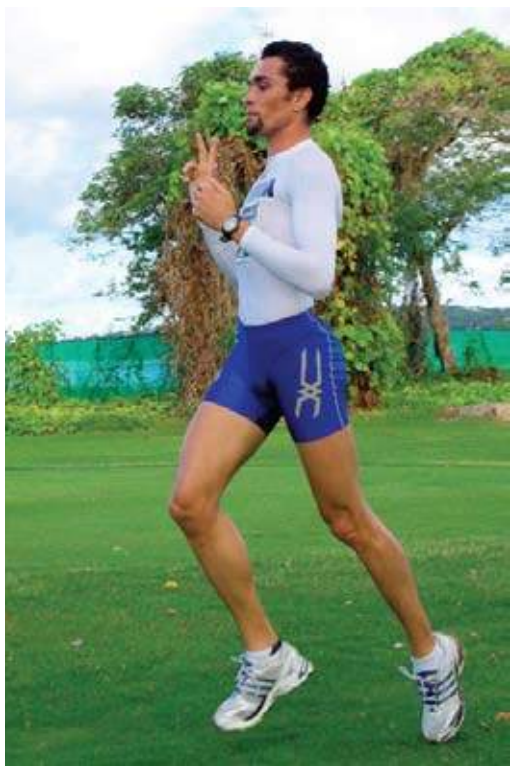
Laura Nagel of New Zealand won the women's under-18 3-km Cross Country by checking in at 10:49.

MARK RABAGO

Salome Dell won the women's open 3-km Cross Country event with a time of 11:08.

MARK RABAGO

The Papua New Guinea team came out to support Salome Dell in the women's open 3-km Cross Country event.



DAN KIMBALL

Aunese Curreen of Samoa won the first gold medal of the 2008 Oceania Championships by topping the 6-kilometer Cross Country in 21:05.

DAN KIMBALL

Aunese Curreen of Samoa chases Australia's Brendan Whelan yesterday's Cross Country event at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

DAN KIMBALL

Gregory Foasilafu of Solomon Islands won the men's under-18 3-km Cross Country by clocking in at 10:16.

MARK RABAGO

Matthew Mancao of the CNMI barely missed out on the bronze in the men's under-18 3-km Cross Country. He checked in at 1:29.

MARK RABAGO

Christopher Magtoto of Guam came in second in the men's under-18 3-km Cross Country with a time of 10:20.

New record for returning Jenequa

When Jenequa Benavente recently moved back to Saipan from Hawaii, athletics more so setting a new national record probably was the farthest thing from her mind.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Davenport hobbles into 2nd round at Wimbledon

With Wimbledon devolving into a fashion contest, former champion Lindsay Davenport's retro getup may have trumped all other outfits.

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Samoa's Curreen scoops first medal

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The 2008 Oceana Championships finally got going early yesterday morning with Samoa's Aunese Curreen bagging the first gold medal of the competition by winning the men's open 6-kilometer Cross Country held at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

The 27-year-old 800m specialist upset 2006 Oceania Championships silver medalist Brendan Whelan of Australia by finishing strong and completing the race in 21:05.

Whelan who led Curreen until the final 200m of the Cross Country came in four seconds behind the Beijing Olympics-bound Samoan in a time of 21:09, while Vanuatu's Sam Lavi collected the silver, clocking in at 21:14.

The victory over Whelan, who is favored in the 5000m and half marathon, came as surprise for the mild-mannered Curreen.

"I feel happy but I didn't expect to win the Cross Country. It's not my event. I just took part in the Cross Country because my coach and I thought it would be a good part of my training for the Olympics," he said in an interview with the *Saipan Tribune*.

"I stayed behind all the way and I just passed him maybe 200m to go. But I felt very strong the whole race. He specializes in Cross Country so it was a surprise for me that I beat him," he added.

Whelan, for his part, said he wasn't shocked that Curreen beat him in the Cross Country.

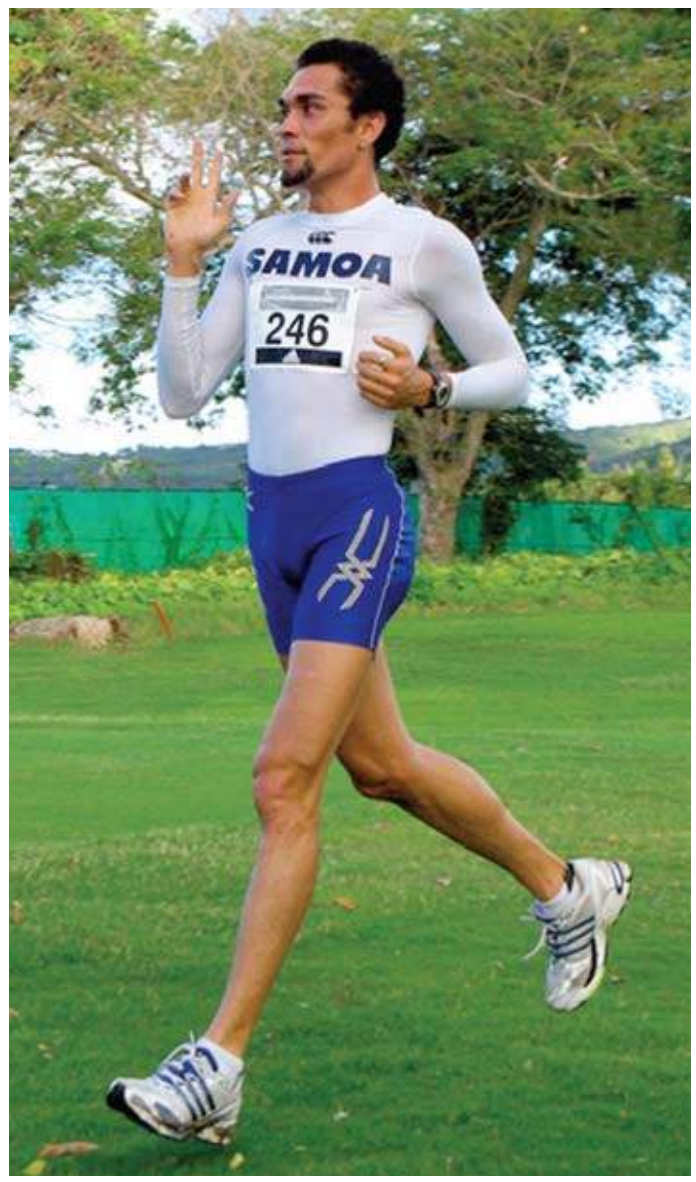
"I wasn't surprised at all. He ran just behind me all the way. He's an 800m and 400m runner. He's going to the Olympics for the 800m. He always had a better finishing kick than I have. I should have tried to go out harder and try to burn him off but it didn't work. Silver medal last time and silver medal this time, but I'm looking forward to 5000m and half marathon," he said.

New Zealand's Laura Nagel, meanwhile, was the first woman to cross the finish line en route to winning the under-18 Cross Country gold medal.

The 16-year-old almost matched her seed time of 10:40 by completing the 3-km run in 10:49.

"It [the course] was really good. It's my first gold medal representing New Zealand so it was good. I liked the course because I really like the up-and-

See SAMOA'S on Page 26



DAN KIMBALL
Laura Nagel of New Zealand, left, and Aunese Curreen of Samoa were the first man and woman to cross the finish line early yesterday morning in the 2008 Oceania Championships' Cross Country event at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Young Kiwis lead medal count

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

New Zealand may have only brought its under-18 team to the 2008 Oceania Championships, but that didn't prevent the kiwis from scooping gold and silver medals in the Cross Country event early yesterday morning at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

With Laura Nagel and Danielle Trevis finishing first and second in the women's 3-kilometer run, New Zealand finds itself on top of the medal standings of the biennial athletics event.

Team manager Joan Merelisse said to begin with New Zealand wanted to bring along both its open and under-18 teams to Saipan, but the prohibitive cost of airfare—NZ$4,500 per head—scuttled that plan from the onset.

"It's more like a develop-

See YOUNG on Page 26

MARK RABAGO
New Zealand manager Joan Merelisse and head coach Ed Fern pose with the rest of the kiwi team at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort after the Cross Country event.

2008 Oceania Championships formally begins

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The 2008 Oceania Championships held its opening ceremony last night with local officials and VIPs from the regional athletics federation welcoming athletes at the American Memorial Park amphitheater.

Acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez said it was indeed an honor for the CNMI to have been selected to host the area championships.

"It has been an exciting week already with the recently concluded Oceania Grand Prix. Sports pages of our local newspapers have been filled with your exploits and the local community—athletes or not—have been caught up with the excitement of the event."

Villagomez commended the athletes for their passion and thanked the Oceania Athletics Association for granting the CNMI the opportunity to host the 2008 Oceania Championships.

OAA representative to the International Association of Athletics Federations, Bill Bailey, told the athletes not to take for granted their participation in events like the 2008 Oceania Championships.

"You've been selected for a great honor and that honor is to represent your home country. Treat that honor with the respect that it deserves. Compete with passion but compete with friendship."

Bailey also thanked IAAF for contributing $500,000 for the staging of the 2008 Oceania Championships.

OAA president Geoff Gardner, for his part, welcomed Tuvalu and New Caledonia to the event.

He said the 2008 Oceania Championships is Tuvalu's first appearance in the area championships and added that shortly after the competition, the island nation will take part in its first Olympics this summer in Beijing.

New Caledonia, for its part, according to Gardner was recently endorsed to become an associate member of the OAA.

"No longer will it be chocolate medals for New Caledonia as they will be eligible to win the real thing this time."

He also reiterated what OAA executive director Yvonne Mullins earlier said that the French territory has been awarded the 2010 Grand Prix Championships and the 2010 under-18 Championships during the council

See 2008 on Page 26

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Athletes competing in the 2008 Oceania Championship gathered at the American Memorial Park amphitheater for the event's opening ceremony last night.